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LAW THAT'S JUST BUILT ON TRUST

SAM BREGMAN'S PLAN TO FIGHT
CRIME IN NEW MEXICO

I'm running to be New Mexico's next Governor. I'm ready to fight for every person in the state; build a safer, more prosperous future for generations to come; and hold those who harm communities accountable.

I began my career in the justice system over 30 years ago as an Assistant District Attorney. Since then, I have dedicated my professional life to advocating for the most vulnerable and voiceless. I spearheaded initiatives in the Albuquerque metropolitan area to establish hate crime ordinances and founded the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program, which continues to provide critical support to survivors throughout the state.

Now, as Bernalillo County's District Attorney, I have brought the leadership, determination, and effective advocacy needed to address New Mexico's ongoing crime challenges.

COMBAT DRUG ADDICTION

Substance abuse and addiction are fueling crime in New Mexico with the fentanyl crisis causing devastating harm across our communities. As District Attorney, I have cracked down on traffickers while helping addicted offenders get the treatment they need, but we can't prosecute our way out of this epidemic. Tackling addiction takes both accountability and compassion, and New Mexicans deserve easy, reliable access to treatment and recovery services. By working together, we can confront this crisis head-on and build a safer, healthier New Mexico.

As governor, I will:

- Establish a centralized hub for law enforcement, health care workers, and families to get real-time access to treatment.
- ✔ This will include broad-based Narcan training to teach anyone how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose by administering Narcan. Minutes can save lives.
- ✔ Expand access to social services and rebuild the behavioral health provider network.
- ✔ Fully fund law enforcement, district attorneys, public defenders, and the judiciary.
- ✔ Expand specialty courts to better handle addiction-related cases.
- ✔ Increase addiction recovery services for youth.

RECRUIT MORE POLICE

Being a police officer is more than a job. It's a calling rooted in service, courage, and integrity. I know it's time to restore pride in law enforcement and rebuild trust between officers and the communities they serve. With over 30 years in the justice system and a record of standing up for the vulnerable, including my work as District Attorney, I know the value of strong, ethical policing and the leadership required to deliver real public safety reform.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Partner with local high schools and universities to develop training and career programs, including internships that provide students - especially those from underrepresented communities - with pathways to employment opportunities in law enforcement.
- ✓ Dedicate resources to recruiting talent from universities from out of state, particularly those in areas that may have similar cultures and values to the communities of New Mexico.
- ✓ Expand our state retirement and benefits system to recognize prior service from officers in other states, enabling experienced law enforcement officers to work in New Mexico while retaining the retirement benefits for which they have worked so hard.

CRACK DOWN ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

I understand the growing crisis of youth violence and gun-related crime across New Mexico. As District Attorney, I implemented a zero-tolerance policy for firearms on school grounds and introduced a plea policy requiring juveniles to disclose gun sources. Recognizing the connection between crime and child well-being, I have worked with legislators, law enforcement, and advocacy groups to push for updates to the Children's Code that balance accountability for violent offenders with prevention and rehabilitation for at-risk youth.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Modernize the Children's Code to close gaps in the juvenile justice system and address the rise in youth violence.
- ✓ Expand deterrence efforts with mentoring, education, and alternative sentencing for non-violent youth.
- ✓ Improve collaboration statewide among schools, law enforcement, courts, and community organizations.
- ✓ Ensure violent juveniles are held accountable while creating meaningful rehabilitation pathways.
- ✓ Elevate child well-being as a central strategy to reduce long-term crime in New Mexico.

ATTACK PROPERTY CRIME

Property and retail crime is a growing multi-billion dollar problem. As a longtime downtown Albuquerque business owner, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact vandalism and theft generate on local businesses. With my background as a prosecutor, I understand that many of these crimes are driven by complex, organized retail theft networks that endanger both the economy and public safety. I have worked closely with major retailers and small business owners to develop real solutions, and I am committed to using every tool available to keep communities safe and support local businesses.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Increase the number of law enforcement officers on the streets.**
- ✓ Train and deploy specialized prosecutors to handle organized retail crime.**
- ✓ Invest in advanced technology to identify and track criminal networks.**
- ✓ Partner with both major retailers and small businesses to develop local solutions.**
- ✓ Address root causes of property crime through a coordinated strategy.**

PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence remains a serious issue in New Mexico impacting families across the state. I bring firsthand experience in both representing survivors and prosecuting offenders. Under my leadership as District Attorney, my office made domestic violence a top priority, working with advocacy groups, investing in specialized training, and using tools like Extreme Risk Protection Orders to hold perpetrators accountable. While progress has been made, I know there's still more work to do to protect survivors and prevent violence before it happens.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Prioritize prosecution of domestic violence cases across the state.
- ✔ Expand the use of Extreme Risk Protection Orders to keep firearms out of dangerous hands.
- ✔ Strengthen partnerships with local advocacy organizations.
- ✔ Invest in specialized training for law enforcement and prosecutors.
- ✔ Ensure survivors have access to the support and resources they need.

PROSECUTE HATE CRIMES

Marginalized communities are under growing attacks across the country that are often fueled by hateful rhetoric and federal inaction. In a diverse state like New Mexico, every person deserves to feel safe. I understand the legal and emotional complexities of prosecuting hate crimes offenses that are notoriously difficult to prove and often place an unfair burden on victims. As District Attorney and as a seasoned trial attorney, I have consistently stood up for those targeted by hate. I am committed to using my extensive legal experience to modernize protections and uphold justice for all.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Modernize and strengthen New Mexico's hate crime enhancement laws.
- ✓ Use legal expertise to ensure hate crimes are prosecuted with care and determination.
- ✓ Advocate for policies that protect the rights and safety of all marginalized communities.
- ✓ Partner with lawmakers and legal experts to close gaps in enforcement.
- ✓ Stand firmly against hate, fear, and discrimination in all forms.

BATTLE ORGANIZED CRIME

As Chairman of the Organized Crime Commission, I have seen how cartels, human traffickers, and other transnational criminal organizations exploit New Mexico's weaker laws and limited law enforcement resources. These criminal networks operate across borders and jurisdictions, targeting vulnerable people and communities. I know we need a unified, statewide and regional approach to combat these threats.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Establish a centralized law enforcement intelligence center to coordinate statewide and regional efforts.**
- ✔ Update human trafficking laws to ensure traffickers are fully prosecuted.**
- ✔ Empower law enforcement to seize assets from criminal organizations.**
- ✔ Reinvest seized assets into programs that benefit New Mexico communities.**
- ✔ Strengthen coordination between local, state, tribal, and regional law enforcement.**

BATTLE ORGANIZED CRIME

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Target cartel routes, tactics, and operations through real-time data and intelligence.**
- ✓ **Ensure rural areas and tribal communities are fully supported in the fight against organized crime.**
- ✓ **Make it clear: New Mexico is no longer open for cartel or trafficking business.**

TACKLING DWI

DWI offenses continue to plague New Mexico and threaten the safety of our communities. To improve public safety, restore public confidence, and ensure consistent enforcement across the state, we must take action to strengthen DWI laws, equip officers with the right tools and training, and streamline the entire process from roadside stops to courtroom outcomes.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Advance a unified DWI strategy for New Mexico by building a centralized, concerted statewide effort to aid in the investigations and prosecutions of DWI.**
- ✓ Equip DWI officers with the latest technology, including mobile breathalyzers for rural communities, to make immediate testing more efficient and reliable.**
- ✓ Increase funding and resources to expand specialized DWI courts to make sure justice is served efficiently and to make sure first-time offenders get the resources to never offend again.**
- ✓ Streamline prosecutions and increase penalties for chronic, repeat offenders convicted of multiple DWI offenses, ensuring that those who constantly endanger public safety face more serious consequences.**

A PRESCRIPTION FOR PROGRESS

**SAM BREGMAN'S PLAN TO REPAIR AND REFORM NEW
MEXICO'S HEALTH CARE**

HEALTH CARE IN NEW MEXICO: WHERE WE STAND

HEALTH CARE IN NEW MEXICO IS IN CRISIS AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT.

We have an access crisis: too few physicians, nurses, and other providers to care for our people. We have an affordability crisis: costs keep climbing, while the Republicans' "Big Brutal Bill" threatens to gut Medicaid and Marketplace health plans. Let's be clear: 38% of New Mexicans - over 800,000 people - depend on Medicaid. Another 77,000 rely on Marketplace health plans.

These numbers aren't just statistics - they represent our neighbors, small business owners, self-employed workers, and our community at large. Cuts to these programs mean rural hospitals will close, jobs will vanish, and access to care will shrink even further. To add to these challenges, New Mexico's population is aging, and this will put even more demands on our already stressed healthcare system. We must plan and act now to be ready. Health care is one of our biggest employers. Approximately 42,000 New Mexicans work in the industry: 26,000 in hospitals; 11,000 in outpatient care; and 5,000 in medical, dental, and pharmacy health plans. If we want better health care, we must fight for current health care professionals and train the next generation. A healthy New Mexico starts with strong hospitals, thriving clinics, and the promise that no one is left without care.

Our next governor must begin to tackle these challenges on day one. That's why I have consulted with experts to develop a real plan to address our health care crises NOW. New Mexicans can't wait.

FOUR PILLARS OF SAM'S PLAN

- ✓ **Defend New Mexicans from Trump's GOP, their "Big Brutal Bill," and any other cuts and assaults they launch on our citizens' health care.**
- ✓ **Expand the number of physicians and specialists by signing interstate health care compacts with 40 other states.**
- ✓ **Grow, retain, and support our health care workforce to meet the needs of New Mexicans in every part of the state.**
- ✓ **Build a stronger system that supports our health care professionals and patients while expanding health care coverage.**

1 DEFEND NEW MEXICANS FROM TRUMP AND GOP

We are facing a crisis in health care affordability and access. It will take a strategic push to reform and repair a broken system: a true collaborative effort that brings every resource together to meet this challenge.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Increase investments in the Medicaid Trust Fund and accelerate distributions as needed to protect our citizens.
- ✓ Relieve administrative burdens and requirements on providers and Medicaid managed care organizations.
- ✓ Fund announcements so New Mexicans on Medicaid and Marketplace plans understand their rights and new requirements to ensure coverage.
- ✓ Consider any responsible funding mechanism to get our citizens the health care they need, reduce red tape, empower health professionals and safeguard women's health and family planning.
- ✓ Ensure Medicaid premium rates are sufficient to ensure access to providers and to meet the challenges of the new federal requirements.

2 EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS AND OTHER SPECIALISTS BY SIGNING COMPACTS WITH 40 OTHER STATES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE

My comprehensive plan will prioritize recruiting and retaining high-quality providers. We will launch a comprehensive, multi-step strategy to tackle this challenge head-on.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Engage key health care leaders to provide input on compacts as well as to bolster understanding of their impact on licensing and how new health care providers may participate in telehealth and/or establish practice in New Mexico.**
- ✓ Encourage large healthcare organizations to act as hosts for out-of-state providers by offering office space, nursing/medical assistant support, and staff resources.**
- ✓ Establish funding mechanisms to cover travel reimbursement under contractual arrangements, enabling physicians and other specialists to hold in-person office hours in New Mexico.**
- ✓ Ensure timely network participation by requiring MCOs and insurance companies to credential providers efficiently and within the statutory 30-day timeframe.**

3 GROW, RETAIN AND SUPPORT OUR HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

After safeguarding Medicaid and ACA patients from the Trump/GOP cuts and joining new interstate health care compacts, my comprehensive plan will prioritize recruiting and retaining high-quality providers. We will launch a wide-ranging multi-step strategy to tackle this challenge head-on.

As governor, I will:

✓ **Grow Our Health Care Workforce**

✓ **Increase retention and expand the number of new medical school graduates. Only 24% of UNM HSC medical graduates practice in New Mexico. This must change.**

✓ **Increase the salaries for our UNM HSC medical residents to meet regional averages.**

✓ **Appoint University Regents who will be held accountable for increasing the number of residents who choose to practice and live in New Mexico post-training.**

✓ **Recruit and retain the best faculty to ensure we train and keep more physicians and nurses in New Mexico.**

3 GROW, RETAIN AND SUPPORT OUR HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Provide Financial Incentives & Tax Reform**
 - ✔ **Continue GRT reform and repeal taxes on medical, dental, behavioral, and social services. NM is one of two states that tax medical services. I will end that.**
 - ✔ **Expand rural health care tax credits to more providers and adjust for inflation.**
 - ✔ **Enact state income tax credits for malpractice premiums for physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives, and other health care providers.**
 - ✔ **Offer loan repayments and other incentives to needed specialists such as child psychiatrists and other behavioral health providers.**

4 BUILD A STRONGER SYSTEM FOR PATIENTS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

- ✓ **Reduce administrative burden on all who provide health care or coverage for New Mexicans**
- ✓ **Simplify prior authorization requirements and establish waivers for high-performing providers.**
- ✓ **Allow health care providers to focus on care, not paperwork.**
- ✓ **Require insurers to process claims within 30 days and use a unified credentialing system across all health plans.**
- ✓ **Improve provider pipeline & oversight to get more doctors and nurses licensed efficiently**
- ✓ **Direct and work with licensing boards to streamline the processes.**
- ✓ **Fund license fees for new and certain providers in much needed fields like primary care, nursing, and psychology.**

4 BUILDING A STRONGER SYSTEM FOR PATIENTS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

- ✓ **Strengthen health care infrastructure.**
- ✓ **Promote and support qualified public health clinics and services across New Mexico. Not only do these lynchpins provide critical services such as vaccinations and family planning, they also allow doctors to focus on more serious issues.**
- ✓ **Enhance Health Information Exchange (HIE) for better data sharing.**
- ✓ **Continue tribal partnerships.**
- ✓ **Safeguard women's health and family planning, and ensure care for our most vulnerable.**
- ✓ **Create a provider-friendly environment by addressing challenges across hospitals, independent and group practices, and health plans.**
- ✓ **Ensure hospital privileges are based on clinical qualifications and quality of care.**
- ✓ **Ensure that the head of the Department of Health is a physician or Master of Public Health due to the critical nature of the role.**
- ✓ **Remove barriers and expand Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth visits, especially for gynecological and mental health services.**
- ✓ **Establish a dedicated liaison to coordinate programs, policy, and data collection focused on closing health outcome gaps for women.**

MALPRACTICE REFORM

TAX CREDITS AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROTECT PATIENTS AND HELP HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- ✓ Every year, there are hundreds of thousands of patient visits, outpatient procedures, hospitalizations, prescriptions, as well as lab and imaging tests performed. Only a minuscule amount of these various encounters results in malpractice litigation. When it does occur, patients need advocates and attorneys to speak for them.
- ✓ Malpractice reform is not the single silver bullet to correct a myriad of factors that contribute to the main issue New Mexicans face, which is limited access to primary care and other specialty providers when they need them.
- ✓ Malpractice litigation often results in individual providers and systems enhancing their safety protocols, e.g. operating room procedures and prescription practices.
- ✓ Providers need immediate relief from premium burden. State tax income credits will ease that challenge.
- ✓ Every solution to enhance access to providers and increasing the number of providers practicing in New Mexico will be on the table.

EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN NM SCHOOLS

Sam Bregman's Plan to Transform Education in New Mexico

IT'S TIME TO GIVE EVERY NEW MEXICO STUDENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED

For too long, New Mexico's schools have ranked among the lowest-performing in the nation. Year after year, politicians from both parties have played politics with our children's education, forgetting the consequences. This failure has held our state back, limiting opportunities and leading to unfortunate outcomes for too many kids.

But I believe in the potential of New Mexico's students. We have some of the brightest children in the country, and their untapped talent is enormous. My plan puts students and families at the center by driving measures to keep kids in school, keeping them learning, and preparing them to be the next generation of leaders for our state.

Every decision in education must be made with what is best for our children at heart.

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS AND ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION

Our kids are New Mexico's greatest asset, and we owe our youth a clear path to improve their education.

New Mexico's school districts are multimillion-dollar organizations, yet too often, they lack real goals for student success. That has to change. We will work with educators to set clear statewide achievement goals and hold every district accountable. Our focus will be on what truly works in classrooms - because teaching and learning are complex, but results matter.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Establish statewide student achievement goals with educators.
- ✔ Require every district to set and publicly share progress toward metrical targets.
- ✔ Intervene with turnaround plans when schools consistently underperform.

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS AND ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION

- ✓ Invest early in literacy & math.
- ✓ Identify and support struggling students before 3rd grade.
- ✓ Notify parents early and connect them to school and community supports.
- ✓ Train every K–3 teacher in the science of reading, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- ✓ Provide literacy coaches so students can read at grade level by 3rd grade.

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS AND ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Raise New Mexico's graduation rate (currently just 78%).**
- ✓ **Expand AP courses, tutoring in reading and math, and career-technical programs.**
- ✓ **Partner with community colleges and businesses to provide apprenticeships and industry-recognized credentials.**
- ✓ **Equip students with the skills they need for success in college or careers.**
- ✓ **Tackle chronic absenteeism with early intervention and support.**
- ✓ **Provide families the resources they need to keep kids learning and on track.**
- ✓ **Shift funding from bureaucracy to teachers and classrooms.**
- ✓ **Ensure educators have the resources they need to deliver quality instruction.**

MAKE NEW MEXICO THE BEST PLACE TO BE A TEACHER

Teachers have the single greatest impact on student success. To give our kids the future they deserve, we must make New Mexico the best place in the Southwest to teach and keep the best talent in our classrooms.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Continue to fight for best-in-region pay so teachers know they are valued.**
- ✔ **Aggressively recruit teachers for Pre-K programs, with the goal of giving every 3- and 4-year-old access to quality public education.**
- ✔ **Increase the number of counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses in schools so teachers can focus on teaching.**
- ✔ **Ensure schools have the capacity to meet student needs without overloading educators.**

MAKE NEW MEXICO THE BEST PLACE TO BE A TEACHER

- ✓ **Require and fund meaningful professional development for license renewal.**
- ✓ **Guarantee teachers at least 10 paid days of high-quality, evidence-based training.**
- ✓ **Establish consistent, curriculum-based programs led by skilled coaches and master teachers.**

MAKE NEW MEXICO THE BEST PLACE TO BE A TEACHER

What Sam Will Do as Governor:

- ✔ **Require public schools to use the best available curriculum and instructional materials backed by proven results.**
- ✔ **Align teacher preparation programs with best practices, including the science of reading.**
- ✔ **Require year-long clinical training experiences in all teacher prep programs.**
- ✔ **Explore models from other states, such as North Carolina's Advanced Teaching Roles Program, that empower top teachers to mentor and lead teams.**
- ✔ **Expand the reach of high-performing teachers, improve support for new teachers, and strengthen student outcomes statewide.**

IMPROVE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE IN NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS

A high school diploma in New Mexico should mean preparation for today's world. Our schools must meet individual student needs while ensuring all students gain the skills required for success in college, careers, and life.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Revise graduation standards to build critical thinking, financial literacy, and civic knowledge.**
- ✓ **Ensure all students gain durable skills like leadership, character, creativity, communication, and problem-solving.**
- ✓ **Bolster workforce training tied to regional economies.**
- ✓ **Make CTE programs available to every student who wants them.**
- ✓ **Provide extra support to families who need help accessing workforce training.**
- ✓ **Launch a major push to train and hire more bilingual teachers.**
- ✓ **Support Spanish and Native language programs that boost student achievement and confidence.**

IMPROVE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE IN NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Expand extracurriculars, sports, and after-school programs to accelerate learning and support working families.**
- ✓ **Provide high-impact tutoring for any student identified by educators and families.**
- ✓ **Expand summer learning with literacy programs for younger students and paid internships for secondary students.**
- ✓ **Offer families up to \$1,000 for enrichment activities, tutoring, or interventions, from sports fees to academic programs.**
- ✓ **Implement a statewide plan to meet the Yazzie/Martinez court ruling, ensuring that at-risk and Native students receive equitable, culturally responsive education.**
- ✓ **Establish a Task Force to study district size and explore whether smaller districts could improve student performance and make schools more responsive.**

EXPAND PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

More than 70% of families want more public school options beyond their locally zoned district. We must embrace this reality and provide excellent public choices for every community. We must also reject school vouchers and other programs that take resources away from public schools.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Establish four statewide Innovation Academies focused on the domains of STEM, the arts, agribusiness, and energy.**
- ✓ Open enrollment to all New Mexico students, prioritizing those identified in the Yazzie/Martinez case.**
- ✓ Staff these schools with top educators and make them training hubs for teachers in specialized fields.**
- ✓ Incentivize districts to create their own Innovation Academies.**
- ✓ Support expansion of high-demand magnet schools to reduce long waiting lists.**
- ✓ Encourage adoption of public charter schools in communities with limited school choice.**

EXPAND PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Help the best-performing charters expand statewide.**
- ✓ **Provide facility support and resources for growth.**
- ✓ **Allow strong charter models to open in communities that want them.**
- ✓ **Work with Tribal partners to establish Tribal Compact Schools focused on Native language and culture.**
- ✓ **Empower Tribal nations to design schools that engage Native youth and prepare them for bright futures.**
- ✓ **Increase compensation for principals to strengthen school stability.**
- ✓ **Grant principals greater autonomy over budgets and policy decisions while concurrently elevating performance expectations.**

EXPAND PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Modernize training programs for future school leaders, working with higher education institutions and successful principals.**

- ✓ **Work to promote micro schools - small schools that focus on personalized learning. Education should meet the needs of the child, not force every student into a one-size-fits-all model. Micro schools offer families the flexibility to create innovative learning environments, connect with community resources, and better prepare students for future careers.**

INVEST IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

School leaders are critical to producing empowered teachers and successful students, but in many places, they are treated like middle management without the ability to make decisions that are responsive to communities. I will invest in our schools' leaders to increase stability at our schools and help them become more responsive to the communities they serve.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Increase compensation for school principals. Our principals feel the heat from everywhere. They implement policies from the legislature, address issues from parents, serve as the educational leader at their schools, assist teachers to succeed in the classroom, and much more. Currently, principal stability has suffered and that leads to a shakier foundation for all schools.
- ✓ Work with school leaders to give them more autonomy. Higher pay goes hand in hand with higher expectations. We will work with New Mexico LEAs to make the principalship a dynamic role with more control over budgets, policy decisions, and more. This allows principals to exercise their best judgment and be more responsive to their school communities.
- ✓ Work to bring more optimally trained principals to our public schools while collaborating with our Institutes of Higher Education to update school administrator training that will better prepare them for leadership responsibilities. I will consult with our most successful principals as we design training to give every school leader the skills they need to help our kids succeed.

KEEP NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS SAFE

Students learn best when they feel safe and supported and when their basic needs, like healthy meals, are met.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Continue funding free school meals for all students despite federal cuts.**
- ✔ **Upgrade HVAC systems and create safe, healthy, state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, and facilities.**
- ✔ **Maintain a strict ban on guns and weapons of any kind on campus.**
- ✔ **Boost access to counselors and mental health services for both students and teachers.**

ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL RACES AND CULTURES

The landmark 2018 *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* ruling requires the state to overhaul education so that all students - especially Native students, students with disabilities, and those in poverty - receive equitable, culturally responsive education.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Implement the Yazzie/Martinez Plan.**
- ✔ **Refine and implement the statewide plan being developed by the Public Education Department.**
- ✔ **Ensure quality education for at-risk students, including Native American, disabled, and low-income children.**
- ✔ **Grow shared Tribal-State educational authority by giving tribes a stronger role in curriculum design, governance, and programs for Native students.**
- ✔ **Expand culturally relevant learning by laying the foundation to integrate Indigenous language, culture, and traditions into classrooms.**
- ✔ **Identify dedicated funding to support proposals like the Tribal Education Trust Fund and finance tribal-led programs as well as language revitalization.**
- ✔ **Deliver equitable resources by ensuring fair funding and pay parity for Tribal instructors and schools.**

ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL RACES AND CULTURES

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Establish Tribal Compact Schools.**
- ✓ **Partner with Tribal nations to create schools centered on Native language and culture.**
- ✓ **Empower tribes to design and lead schools that fully engage Native youth and prepare them for bright futures.**

GET NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS AI-TRAINED

Artificial Intelligence is moving fast, and New Mexico's schools must keep up. AI has the potential to enhance learning and support teachers, but it also raises valid concerns. We must ensure it serves students and educators, not just tech companies.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Create A State Instructional Technology Advisory Board.
- ✔ Bring together K–12 and higher education leaders, employers, and technology experts.
- ✔ Provide guidance, integration, oversight, and evaluation of education technologies, including AI.
- ✔ Train and support educators by prioritizing professional development so teachers and administrators are prepared to use AI responsibly.
- ✔ Ensure schools have the tools and resources to integrate AI effectively.

GET NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS AI-TRAINED

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Establish clear rules to protect students and educators and involve parents, teachers, and communities in shaping how AI is used in schools.**
- ✓ **Guarantee transparency and accountability, so technology serves learning—not the other way around.**

FROM CHILDHOOD TO OPPORTUNITY

Sam Bregman's Plan for New Mexico's Kids

I'M RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR TO MAKE NEW MEXICO THE BEST PLACE IN AMERICA TO GROW UP.

Today, we rank 50th in the nation in overall child well-being as we struggle with deep child poverty, the high costs of raising kids, and a child protection system stretched too thin. That is unacceptable. I will fight for every child to have a safe home, a strong start in life, and the opportunity to thrive here in New Mexico, while making it easier for parents - especially working moms - to provide for their families. When families earn more and keep more of what they make, children do better in school, are healthier, and have a better shot at success. That is why my plan will:

- Help families afford the high cost of raising kids by creating launchpad accounts for every child, establishing paid family and medical leave, making free child care accessible to every New Mexican family who wants it , and expanding preschool to every 4-year-old. Much progress has been made in recent years; I will build on that progress and make quality child care and pre-K a reality in every corner of New Mexico.
- Boost family income and cut taxes for families with children by creating better-paying jobs, reducing degree requirements that block skilled New Mexicans from employment opportunities, and expanding tax credits so parents can cover the basics and invest in their kids.
- Protect children from harm by cracking down on dangerous online content, reducing smartphone use in classrooms, preventing gun violence, and tackling juvenile crime — while investing in proven strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect; fixing the Children, Youth & Families Department; strengthening the CYFD workforce; and ensuring more foster families can provide safe, nurturing homes.

Together, we can move New Mexico from last place to a state where every child, no matter their zip code, has the chance to grow up safe, healthy, and ready for the future.

1 LOWERING FAMILY BURDENS AND STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

Raising children in New Mexico has never been more expensive, and too often high costs limit the opportunities kids have to learn, grow, and thrive. High-quality childcare and early learning give children the foundation for success in school and life, and make it possible for parents, especially mothers, to stay in the workforce and strengthen their family's economic stability. By lowering these costs and making care and education accessible to every family, we can give all children a strong start, support parents, and build a thriving New Mexico economy.

As governor, I will:

✔ Create a State Instructional Technology Advisory Board

✔ Provide every child with up to \$10,000 in a Launchpad Account. Older Americans have access to Social Security and Medicare when they retire, but children need a nest egg to get a strong start in life and a shot at the American Dream. We will invest \$10,000 for babies born into the lowest-income families. The investment will scale down gradually by income, so that middle-income families still receive a meaningful investment while the largest share of resources goes to the children who need it most. By high school graduation, young people will have, depending upon family income, up to \$20,000 to invest in education, starting a business, buying a home, or saving for retirement. California, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C., have all enacted similar measures, while the New Mexico House Appropriations and Finance Committee passed legislation last year that would have created a \$100 million fund for this purpose. As governor, I will get this done.

1 LOWERING FAMILY BURDENS AND STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Cut child care costs for young children of middle-class families and expand access to quality care. Thanks to the Funding for Early Childhood Programs Amendment to the state Constitution, New Mexico has made historic progress in expanding free and low-cost child care for low-income families. I will build on that success to ensure that every family can find and afford high-quality care. Today, the cost of sending one toddler to a child care center in New Mexico is nearly \$900 per month – a cost most parents can't afford even if they can find a child care provider nearby. I will double down on our child care investments so that we can lower prices, grow supply, and help more parents - especially women - stay in the workforce.**

1 LOWERING FAMILY BURDENS AND STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Grow the number of high-quality child care providers and slots. I will increase state payments to providers so they can pay teachers fair wages with good benefits. And I will provide steady, reliable funding - so that more providers can expand and open their doors to families while simultaneously investing in new and upgraded facilities.**
- ✓ **Expand access in rural and Tribal communities. I will target funding to areas with the fewest options and support home-based programs where they are the backbone of local care.**
- ✓ **Make it easier for parents. I will create a one-stop portal where families can learn about early childhood programs and easily apply for them.**

1 LOWERING FAMILY BURDENS AND STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

Create more child care options. Even with universal free childcare, too many parents struggle to find good child care options in their area. Now that New Mexico covers the cost of child care, we must give parents more time off when needed and build a child care infrastructure across the state that supports every parent. High-quality childcare and early learning give children the foundation for success in school and life, and make it possible for parents, especially mothers, to stay in the workforce and strengthen their family's economic stability. By making care and education accessible to every family, we can give every child a strong start, support parents, and build a stronger New Mexico economy.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Pay Pre-K educators better. From Pre-K through high school graduation, our kids deserve the best teachers we can recruit and retain. I will raise the pay and benefits of Pre-K educators so that they are on par with kindergarten teachers. Equitable compensation will bring strong Pre-K instructors into the classroom.
- ✓ Invest in teacher training, including through ongoing professional development and coaching.
- ✓ Build and upgrade classrooms and facilities, especially in rural and Tribal communities where families often have no nearby options.

1 LOWERING FAMILY BURDENS AND STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

- ✓ **Expand access to quality care.** Thanks to the enactment of universal child care, New Mexico has made historic progress in expanding free and low-cost child care for everyone. I will build on that success to ensure that every family can find high-quality care. I will double down on our child care investments so that we can build a foundation of robust support and help more parents - especially women - to stay in the workforce.
- ✓ **Expand community Pre-K partnerships.** I will increase and stabilize state contracts with child-care providers, Head Start programs, and other community-based providers so families have more choices and more seats are available in rural and Tribal areas.
- ✓ **Provide every middle-class child with access to a free or low-cost after-school program,** from tutoring and literacy programs to sports to extracurricular activities like music and coding.

These proposals complement my plans to address the soaring costs that many major New Mexico families face, including my blueprints to lower the cost of housing, lower the cost of health care, and invest in K-12 education.

2 BOOST FAMILY INCOME & CUT TAXES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

New Mexico ranks near the bottom in child well-being, in large part because too many children are growing up in poverty. Even with one of the strongest safety nets in the country, many parents are still one unexpected expense away from failing to make ends meet. My administration will put more money in working families' pockets, make essentials affordable, and grow good-paying jobs in every corner of the state.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Create better-paying jobs by attracting new employers in high-growth, good-paying industries— like film, clean energy, health tech, and the trades – and ensuring that they offer family-supportive policies. And I will strengthen small-business development so that local entrepreneurs can grow their ventures, hire more workers, and keep jobs in New Mexico.**
- ✓ Remove unnecessary degree requirements for state jobs, require state contractors to follow suit, and encourage the private sector to do the same so that more New Mexicans can get ahead based on their skills and experience instead of expensive degrees.**
- ✓ Expand workforce training and career pathways by growing apprenticeships, modernizing career and technical education, and partnering with unions, community colleges, employers, and nonprofits to launch sector-based training programs that lead directly to good jobs.**

2 BOOST FAMILY INCOME & CUT TAXES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Boost take-home pay with smart, targeted tax relief. With the cost of living climbing faster than wages, families need relief now to give their kids the stability and opportunities they deserve. When the federal government temporarily expanded the Child Tax Credit during the pandemic, it cut child poverty in the United States nearly in half in 2021 and lifted an estimated 32,000 children out of poverty here in New Mexico alone. But that tax credit expired and too many families continue to struggle. Right now, New Mexico families can qualify for up to \$600 per child each year through our own refundable Child Tax Credit, as well as through the state's Working Families Tax Credit – our version of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit – which grows as you work more. I will increase the Child Tax Credit so families get more per child and expand the Working Families Tax Credit so that hard work pays off even more. These changes will help parents keep up with rising costs and give more New Mexico children the strong start in life they deserve.

✓ Develop a state baby bonds program to invest in the future of every child by allocating \$3,200 at birth for Medicaid-eligible babies. Funds grow until age 18.

✓ For low- and middle-income families, Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) will open the door to save for college, buy first homes, or start small businesses. These matched savings accounts give working families the tools to build wealth and opportunity.

2 BOOST FAMILY INCOME & CUT TAXES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Paid family and medical leave is an investment in healthy families, strong communities, and a more productive workforce. It helps small businesses to retain good employees, boost employee morale, reduces unexcused absences, and it even helps them to recruit and retain personnel amid competition with larger businesses who offer paid leave. I recognize that small businesses operate on tight margin - so any program should be designed to minimize their financial and administrative burden. We must ensure that small businesses can keep serving their customers while workers have the flexibility to care for their loved ones without fear of losing a paycheck.

A sensible program should be funded through a shared public system and not put undue financial burden on the small businesses that are so crucial to our economy and employ over half the workforce in our state. This approach means businesses can keep running smoothly while workers get the care they need for themselves and their families.

I recognize the potential costs of such a program so I support a targeted policy that is both affordable and practical. While this won't be easy, I will work with the Legislature, small businesses, and employee representatives to craft a workable, fiscally responsible proposal to get our small business and their employees a paid leave policy that works for all.

This plan builds on my broader economic development strategy to spur growth of industries, strengthen small businesses, and create opportunity in every community – so families have the income, stability, and security to give their children the best possible start in life.

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

Keeping children safe - whether at home, in school, or online - is the most fundamental responsibility we have. Too many New Mexico families worry about gun violence, rising youth crime, dangerous online content, and a child protection system stretched beyond its limits. As a prosecutor, I have spent my career standing up for the most vulnerable by taking on violent offenders and holding systems accountable when they fail children. I know what it takes to prevent harm, respond swiftly when it happens, and create the conditions for kids to grow up safe and supported. I will put that experience to work and tackle threats to children head-on as well as make lasting changes that protect them for the long term. As governor, I will:

✓ Protect kids and teens online. Children and teenagers are particularly vulnerable to harmful online content and addictive platform features. I will work with the Legislature to require online platforms to limit addictive features, prevent the targeting of minors with harmful content, restrict late-night notifications to minors, prohibit targeted advertising and unnecessary data collection for minors, and require robust parental controls and transparency.

✓ Keep schools and neighborhoods safe from gun violence. No parent should worry that their kid might not come home from school safely. New Mexico has one of the highest gun-death rates in the country and firearms are the leading cause of death for our children. I will make the gun laws we recently passed real by training officers and prosecutors on red-flag orders, speeding up records so background checks are complete before any sale, running compliance checks, and getting safe-storage information and free locks to families statewide. And, drawing from my experience as a prosecutor, I will create a Gun Violence Prosecution Unit that targets straw purchasers – people who buy firearms on behalf of someone else to thwart background checks – gun traffickers, and repeat violent offenders.

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM



Prevent juvenile crime and hold offenders accountable when they commit criminal offenses. New Mexico is seeing rising youth violence involving firearms. In Bernalillo County alone, there have been over 900 cases involving kids with guns since 2019. As Bernalillo County District Attorney, I instituted a zero-tolerance policy for guns on school grounds and a firearm-plea policy requiring youths to disclose a gun's source. I also worked closely with legislators, law enforcement, other prosecutors, school boards, and advocacy groups statewide to update the Children's Code with two clear priorities: holding violent juveniles accountable and implementing meaningful preventative and rehabilitative measures. I will build on that work as Governor, both deterring crime and closing gaps in the juvenile justice system. Read more in my plan on the justice system.

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

Protect children from harm. Every child deserves a safe home. But too many minors have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or other circumstances that make it unsafe for them to remain with their biological parents or guardians. New Mexico has one of the nation's highest rates of child maltreatment. Fixing this devastating challenge means investing in prevention of these problems before they start. I will put my experience to work to strengthen prevention, protect children, and hold the system accountable.

As governor, I will:

Invest in prevention to cut maltreatment rates by half. We need to direct resources where they will generate the biggest impact: making smart, proven investments in prevention that will save money over time; drawing down every available federal dollar; supporting child protection workers; and prioritizing outcomes. Prevention is both the right thing to do and fiscally responsible. Every dollar spent helping families early can save several more by avoiding the far higher costs of foster care, emergency services, and court intervention. As a prosecutor, I have seen the devastating impact abuse and neglect have on children and families. I know that preventing harm – and responding swiftly when it happens – can save lives. We will draw down every available federal prevention dollar and put it to work in proven programs that keep kids safe at home, saving lives and money. As governor, I will:

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

Expand proven parenting supports that prevent abuse and neglect. I will scale evidence-based both home visiting programs for expecting and new parents as well as targeted parent coaching for families. These programs connect families with trained social and health workers who provide guidance on child development, parenting skills, and available community resources. The Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting program cut abuse and neglect by nearly 50% and delivered up to \$5.70 in benefits for every \$1 invested. And evidence-based parent coaching models such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy and Nurturing Parenting have reduced repeat maltreatment.

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

- ✓ **Build community hubs to connect families with housing, child care, and mental health care. Families should not have to navigate a maze of programs to get help. Neighborhood- and school-based family resource hubs connect families with wraparound supports like mental health care, housing, food, and benefit navigation before problems escalate. These services improve family stability and reduce the likelihood of child welfare involvement by addressing challenges early and in familiar, trusted settings.**
- ✓ **Help at-risk families recover and stay together safely. I will expand family-centered addiction treatment that includes built-in child care, peer mentors, and coordinated case management. And I will ensure that low-risk neglect cases receive real help – such as housing, child care, food, and counseling – instead of just a case closure. This will reduce repeat reports and keep more children safely at home.**
- ✓ **Prioritize kinship care. Children thrive when they can stay with relatives or close family friends. We will ensure kinship caregivers receive the same financial support, benefits, and licensing access as foster parents.**

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

✓ **Recruit and retain foster families. We'll use targeted recruitment to find homes for teens, sibling groups, and children with special needs and provide 24/7 crisis support, mentorship, training, and increased stipends to reduce disruptions and help foster families succeed.**

✓ **Prevent children from moving from foster care into the juvenile justice system. I will require coordination and shared case planning between child welfare and juvenile justice agencies, invest in therapeutic and community-based alternatives to detention, and expand staff and court training to identify trauma early and connect youth to services that stop cycles of crime and victimization.**

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

✓ Strengthen the workforce and oversight of New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD). New Mexico's Children, Youth & Families Department rightly has become the focus of intense public scrutiny and legislative action. Children have died while under CYFD supervision, and the Department is struggling more broadly with protecting children. As governor, I will move aggressively to reform the Department:

✓ Make CYFD more accountable. I will start by ordering an independent, top-to-bottom audit of the agency and requiring monthly reports to the Governor's Office and regular reports to the public on progress. I will put proven leaders in charge of CYFD's most critical areas, give them the tools and authority to succeed, and hold them directly responsible for outcomes. My administration will demand clear goals, transparent benchmarks, and regular public reporting so nothing falls through the cracks. We will keep open lines with frontline staff and protect whistleblowers so problems get fixed early. And We will treat the Kevin S. Settlement, which requires major reforms to its child welfare system as the floor, not the ceiling, for reform, imposing accountability, transparency, and stronger oversight so that families see real improvements, not just paperwork.

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

✓ Fully staff caseworkers and strengthen the child protection workforce. Social workers are underpaid and overworked. We have a shortage of caseworkers and the results of these shortages can be devastating. My administration will work to fully staff these positions and cut turnover in half by raising compensation, offering flexible schedules, providing mentoring, adding mental health days, and continuing to recruit caseworkers through tuition support and job placement for social service students. We'll also bring in temporary contract staff and cross-agency deployments to stabilize frontline teams until vacancies are filled.

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

✓ Leverage federal funding for prevention, foster care and adoption services, and family preservation programs. New Mexico should not be leaving federal money on the table when it comes to protecting children. For example, I will make sure the state fully implements the Family First Prevention Services Act so that federal dollars pay for prevention programs like home visiting, parent coaching, and family therapy – not just foster care. We will also maximize Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral health and family services. And we'll make sure that Title IV-E funds are fully used – not only to support foster families, but also to help relatives raising children, to provide adoption and guardianship assistance, and to fund prevention programs that keep kids safe at home.

✓ Modernize technology. CYFD is upgrading its technology to make casework faster and more effective. But too often in state government, new systems are rolled out badly, wasting money and leaving frontline workers frustrated. I will ensure that every caseworker has – and knows how to use – effective, modern, mobile-friendly tools to track cases, flag risks, and spend more time in the field. We will use artificial intelligence responsibly, for example, to help identify early red flags in high-risk cases or spot patterns of concern across the system, while keeping final decisions in the hands of trained professionals. Other states are already doing this: Indiana uses AI to help screen child welfare hotline calls more accurately, and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, uses predictive analytics to identify families most in need of support. I will also launch public dashboards to report on response times, caseloads, and outcomes so families and lawmakers can hold the system accountable.

3 PROTECT KIDS FROM HARM

Invest in innovative and proven child welfare practices from other states — like Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams in Ohio and Kentucky, which pair caseworkers with peer mentors to support parents struggling with addiction; Intensive Family Preservation Services in Washington State, which provide round-the-clock crisis support to help children remain safely with their families; and Community Response Teams in Nebraska, which connect at-risk families with housing, food, and counseling before problems escalate.

Partner with faith-based and community organizations to support children and families. Faith-based and community groups in New Mexico already play a central role in tackling poverty, supporting foster and kinship families, running pre-K and afterschool programs, operating food pantries and shelters, and providing addiction recovery and mental health services. I will establish an Office of Faith- and Community-Based Partnerships to serve as a single point of contact and expand cooperation between state government, local nonprofits, and communities of faith. The Office will coordinate across agencies and issues but put a particular focus on children: helping recruit and support foster and kinship caregivers, partnering with early childhood providers to expand pre-K and home visiting in underserved areas, and connecting families with wraparound supports like housing, food, and counseling. While its reach will extend to broader community challenges, the Office's top priority will be ensuring that every child in New Mexico has the safe home, strong start, and caring community they deserve.

As a prosecutor, I have fought for justice for the most vulnerable, and I know what it takes to stand up for kids who cannot stand up for themselves. As Governor, I will bring that same determination to building a New Mexico where every child is safe, supported, and able to thrive. This is not just policy to me – it is my commitment to every family in our state.

BUILDING HOPE, BUILDING HOMES

Sam Bregman's Plan For New Mexico's Housing Future

BUILDING HOPE, BUILDING HOMES

New Mexico is facing a housing emergency that touches every corner of our state. Median rents in New Mexico rose by 60% between October 2017 and October 2024 – more than double the 27% increase seen nationwide during the same period. Meanwhile, home prices in the state surged by 70%, with the average price now exceeding \$300,000. Families are being priced out, young people can't afford to settle down, and homelessness has grown by nearly 20% per year. In Albuquerque, one unhoused person dies every four days. These problems are driven in large part by a simple fact: We don't have enough homes – with a housing inventory that is half of what it was just six years ago. The homes we do build take too long to approve and are often out of reach for working families. I will take bold action to fix this crisis.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Set a bold goal to end New Mexico's housing shortage by building at least 5,000 homes each year by the end of my first term. Ambitious targets drive urgency and accountability, and every policy in this plan will be measured against that goal.**
- ✔ **Help more families buy homes and build wealth. I will create a New Homes for New Mexico Program to incentivize the construction of starter homes that first-time home buyers can afford, and give renters the first chance to buy their homes.**
- ✔ **Build more homes, faster and smarter. I will put a time limit on permitting decisions, modernize zoning and building codes, prioritize housing in areas with existing infrastructure, convert vacant strip malls and commercial buildings into homes, expand modular housing that can be built more quickly, and reward communities that cut red tape and deliver results.**

BUILDING HOPE, BUILDING HOMES

✓ **Lower rents for working families. I will build more affordable rental homes in the communities where people want to live – near jobs, schools, and transit – and expand rental assistance.**

✓ **Stop speculators from driving up housing costs. I will protect families from corporate landlords and out-of-state investors by giving New Mexicans the first chance to buy homes, closing tax loopholes that subsidize Wall Street, banning secret rent-setting schemes, requiring transparency in bulk purchases, and making the home-buying process fairer and more affordable.**

1 HELP MORE FAMILIES BUY HOMES

In the 20th century, America built highways and suburbs to expand the middle class. In the 21st century, we must do it again – this time, with housing – with the same urgency, scale, and ambition. Owning a home has long been part a part of the American Dream because it is a powerful way for families to build wealth and get ahead. In New Mexico, low-income renters spend roughly one-third of their income on housing, while similarly situated homeowners spend less than one-quarter. That’s a monthly savings of hundreds of dollars per household, freeing up funds for bills, savings, or emergencies. And, it adds up to much more wealth over time for homeowners. In 2022, the median net worth of homeowners nationally was approximately 38 times greater than that of renters – \$396,000 versus \$10,400. Homeownership remains the largest wealth-building vehicle for most American families, with home equity making up 80% of net worth for most homeowners. But homeownership is out of reach for families today, in large part because there is a shortage of modest, entry-level, starter homes, which undercuts opportunities for rent-to-own transitions and clogs the upward mobility pipeline. As Governor, I will lead with bold, programmatic action to create more paths into homeownership and unlock long-term wealth for generations. I will:

1 HELP MORE FAMILIES BUY HOMES

✓ Build new homes that first-time homebuyers can afford with New Homes for New Mexico. New Mexico, like the rest of the country, is facing the worst shortage of affordable homes in generations. Millions of homes are missing from the market – especially the modest, entry-level houses that used to give working families a path to ownership. In the 1970s, America built more than 400,000 starter homes every year. Today, that number has collapsed to barely a fraction of that. Instead, developers scramble to build luxury homes for the wealthy, while the kinds of homes working families need go unbuilt or are aging out of reach. The result is predictable: too few homes that middle-class families can afford and rising prices for everyone. I will create a New Homes for New Mexico Program to tackle this shortage head-on by creating the conditions for builders to construct more entry-level homes while ensuring families can afford them. The program will:

✓ Incentivize builders to build more starter homes. I will boost the supply of starter homes by making forward commitments of homebuyer assistance to developers who build starter homes that meet the needs of middle-class first-time buyers. This assistance will expand the pool of families who can afford to purchase the homes once they're built. By lowering financial risk and broadening the market, the program gives builders a strong incentive to construct modest, entry-level homes instead of focusing only on luxury construction.

✓ Help families buy their first home with \$25,000 to \$55,000 in homebuyer assistance toward the down payment and closing costs. Eligible first-time buyers earning below 150% of the local median income will receive assistance ranging from about \$25,000 to \$55,000 - depending on factors like the median home price in their area - and delivered as a zero-interest deferred loan. Families won't make monthly payments; instead, the loan is repaid only when the home is sold or if it's no longer their primary residence.

1 HELP MORE FAMILIES BUY HOMES

✓ Pay it forward by recycling funds for future buyers. When homeowners repay their loans, their repayments are recycled into a revolving fund to help future buyers, so that the same dollars can help the next generation of New Mexican homeowners.

✓ Prepare families to buy homes. Too many New Mexicans are blocked from buying their first home – or even trading up – because they haven't saved enough, lack credit history, or haven't had access to the tools and coaching that make homeownership achievable. This leaves families stuck in place and keeps the whole housing market clogged. I will partner with and support nonprofits to prepare families to buy homes through services like financial coaching, credit repair counseling, matched savings accounts, and downpayment preparation programs.

2 BUILD HOUSING FASTER AND SMARTER

Even when builders are ready to construct affordable housing, local regulations can delay or block projects. Zoning restrictions, lengthy approval processes, and outdated codes all drive up costs and limit supply. To fix this, I will partner with cities and counties to reduce barriers to new housing construction. By working together, we can unlock housing opportunities faster and at lower cost, while making sure projects fit local needs.

As governor, I will:

✓ Set clear statewide goal to end the housing shortage and build at least 5,000 homes each year by the end of my first term. Setting the target itself is critical – it focuses every tool in this plan, from faster permitting to zoning reform, and ensures we measure success not by promises but by homes built and families housed.

✓ Put a shot clock on permitting to speed up housing. One of the biggest barriers to building more homes in New Mexico is the slow and unpredictable permitting process. Projects can languish in review for months or even years – driving up costs, scaring off financing, and leaving families waiting. Too often, these delays mean missed construction windows or cancelled projects altogether, reducing the number of homes built and making housing less affordable for everyone. Other states, like Arizona and Washington, have addressed this problem. I will make sure that New Mexico does, too, by:

2 BUILD HOUSING FASTER AND SMARTER

- ✓ Putting a clear “shot clock” on permitting. Just like in basketball, the shot clock keeps the game moving – without it, play stalls. Under my plan, cities and counties will keep full control to approve, reject, or request changes to projects, but they’ll need to make those decisions on time – either within 65 days if no public hearing is required, or within 120 days if one is.

2 BUILD HOUSING FASTER AND SMARTER

✓ Holding governments accountable to meeting the deadlines. If local governments miss those deadlines, they will be required to refund the project's permit fees, waive future fees for that project, and developers will have a clear right to seek arbitration to recover costs caused by delays.

✓ Requiring transparency for the public. Cities and counties will also need to publish annual performance data on their permitting timelines, so the public can hold them accountable and the state can target resources where they're most needed. This reform brings predictability for builders and communities, speeds up construction, and helps keep costs down. By putting a shot clock on permitting, we'll move housing from plans to reality faster and give more New Mexico families the chance to afford a place of their own.

✓ Speed up construction with modular homes. Construction in New Mexico is often slowed down by labor shortages and high material costs, especially in rural areas. Modular and factory-built homes offer a way to deliver high-quality, affordable housing in months instead of years. These homes are built in factories and assembled on-site, saving time and money. I will update state building codes to fully recognize modular housing, offer tax incentives for manufacturers to set up shop in New Mexico, and require state agencies to consider modular options in publicly funded projects like workforce housing for teachers, nurses, and first responders. This will cut timelines, reduce costs, and make sure rural communities can get housing built even when construction crews are scarce.

2 BUILD HOUSING FASTER AND SMARTER

Turn vacant strip malls and empty buildings into homes families can afford. Strip malls, office parks, and commercial buildings are sitting empty while families struggle to find housing they can afford. These properties already have roads, parking, and utility hookups, but they're trapped by outdated zoning rules that prevent them from being reused. I will change state law so these properties can be converted into housing by-right, eliminating years of costly rezoning fights. To get projects moving, the state will provide low-interest loans through the New Mexico Finance Authority and fast-track permitting for developers who reuse commercial spaces for housing. This will help us create affordable apartments and mixed-use communities in places people already know, while revitalizing blighted corridors.

Cut wait times by modernizing local building systems. Many of New Mexico's cities and counties still use decades-old building codes and paper-based permitting systems that bog down projects in needless delays. Even developers who meet every requirement often spend months waiting on inspections or approvals. I will provide state funding and technical assistance to digitize permitting systems, modernize codes, and streamline inspections. That means if a project meets the rules, it should be approved in weeks instead of years. By upgrading local systems, we will cut backlogs, reduce costs, and give builders the predictability they need to take on more affordable housing projects.

2 BUILD HOUSING FASTER AND SMARTER

✓ Legalize more affordable home options in every community. Too much of New Mexico is still zoned for single-family houses only, even in places close to jobs, schools, and transit. That locks families out of more affordable options like duplexes, casitas, small townhomes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and courtyard apartments – the kinds of homes that used to be common in our neighborhoods. I will update state law so every community must allow a mix of these housing types somewhere, while still giving cities and counties the power to shape design and placement. At the same time, I will eliminate outdated parking mandates that make projects more expensive and block smaller-scale housing. These reforms will open the door to housing that fits within existing neighborhoods, expand options for working families, and reduce the cost of building new homes across the state.

✓ Save families money by building where roads and schools already exist. Where we build matters just as much as how fast we build. Too often, new housing is pushed to the far edges of our cities, forcing families into long commutes and sticking taxpayers with the bill for new water lines, roads, and schools. I will reform how the state allocates capital outlay and infrastructure grants so projects in areas with existing services and jobs get priority. By directing growth to where infrastructure already exists, we can save families money, protect open land, and get homes built more quickly. This approach makes sure that every tax dollar works harder – giving New Mexicans more homes without wasting money on sprawl.

2 BUILD HOUSING FASTER AND SMARTER

✓ Reward communities that approve and build more homes and cut outdated rules. Some communities do the hard work to cut red tape and speed up housing, but right now they get no reward for moving faster. Others stall projects for years without consequence. I will create a competitive state program that directs extra infrastructure and housing dollars to local governments that show measurable results in approving and building homes. Communities that deliver will move to the front of the line for funding, while those that stall will miss out. At the same time, I will order a top-to-bottom review of state and local housing regulations, so that every rule must prove it helps get homes built – and if it doesn't, it will be streamlined or eliminated. This way, outdated rules won't stand in the way of families finding a home.

3 LOWER RENTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Building more homes will help stabilize costs, but that's not enough. Rents in New Mexico have gone up much faster than wages, and too many families are being pushed out of the neighborhoods where they work and send their kids to school. We need practical steps that work: building more affordable rentals, closing loopholes that give Wall Street landlords an unfair advantage, and helping families stay in their homes when a crisis hits. My plan uses tools that are already working in other states and puts them to work here in New Mexico to bring real relief to renters.

As governor, I will:

Build more affordable rentals in the communities where people want to live. Rents are climbing fastest in the places families need to be – near jobs, schools, and transit. But most new apartments being built are luxury units that working people can't afford. I will expand support for developers who build mixed-income buildings, where some apartments are rented at market prices and others are reserved as affordable or workforce units, all built to the same high standard. In New Mexico, this will mean putting more state money on the table through the Mortgage Finance Authority to work alongside federal housing tax credits. Those federal credits help cover part of the cost of building apartments that rent below the market price, but they usually don't go far enough to make a project financially possible. By adding state funds and partnering directly with developers, we can make these projects sustainable – with market-rate rents helping cover the cost of affordable units, so builders earn a fair return and more working families can live in the neighborhoods where they need to be.

3 LOWER RENTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Expand rental assistance and make vouchers work for families. Too many families fall into homelessness not because they can't ever afford rent, but because a sudden setback – a medical bill, a lost job, or a broken car – pushes them behind. I will expand rental assistance and voucher programs, so families get help before they lose their homes. But assistance only works if landlords are willing to accept it, and too often landlords are discouraged by red tape or repair costs. I will fix that by:

Providing emergency rental help with small payments that cover back rent in a crisis and prevent eviction. These “precarity payments” can keep families in their homes during a short-term setback.

Making vouchers work in practice – ending voucher discrimination by prohibiting landlords from refusing families who use housing vouchers, and creating a landlord support fund that makes it easier to say yes. This fund would cover repair costs, provide micro-grants and guarantees, and cut back red tape. States like Massachusetts and Oregon have shown these tools work, and New Mexico can expand its own small landlord risk-mitigation pilots.

4 STOP SPECULATORS FROM DRIVING UP HOUSING COSTS

Wall Street firms and corporate landlords are buying up homes in New Mexico, driving up prices, locking families out of homeownership, and leaving neighborhoods controlled by out-of-state investors. I will take on Wall Street and put New Mexico families first by.

As governor, I will:

✓ Give New Mexicans the first chance to buy homes. Too often, when landlords sell properties, Wall Street firms sweep in with all-cash offers that beat out local families. I will guarantee renters the first right to buy their homes when they go up for sale, paired with financial assistance so families can afford to make the purchase. For large rental portfolios, when hundreds of apartments are being sold at once, I will require that tenants, nonprofits, and local governments have the first chance to buy them. That way, housing stays in the hands of New Mexicans instead of being transferred in bulk to out-of-state investors.

4 STOP SPECULATORS FROM DRIVING UP HOUSING COSTS

Cracking down on rent-setting schemes. Across the country, some large landlords use software that secretly shares rent data and recommends higher prices across entire neighborhoods. This is essentially a form of price-fixing that pushes rents up for everyone. Federal investigations are underway, but we need to double down on them. I will make sure New Mexico acts on its own by explicitly banning landlords from using these programs, requiring transparency when algorithms set rents, and giving the Attorney General stronger authority and penalties to enforce the law. I will also allow tenants to bring their own cases when they are victims of rent-fixing, so families do not have to wait on Washington or big lawsuits to get relief.

Requiring transparency in bulk purchases. Wall Street investors often buy dozens or even hundreds of homes at a time, making it impossible for regular families to compete. Right now, those bulk purchases are hidden from the public. I will require investors to publicly disclose whenever they buy large numbers of homes or apartments, so communities can track ownership and push back before neighborhoods are taken over by out-of-state firms.

Making buying a home more affordable and transparent. On top of high prices, first-time buyers often face hidden costs, such as inflated real estate commissions and steering toward higher-priced listings. These practices make it harder for families to afford their first home. I will require clear disclosure of all commissions and fees in every real estate transaction, ban steering families toward higher-cost options, and support new, lower-cost brokerage models. These changes will make buying a home fairer and more affordable for New Mexicans.

CONFRONTING HOMELESSNESS WITH COMPASSION AND ACTION

Sam Bregman's Plan to Reduce Homelessness

TACKLE HOMELESSNESS WITH URGENCY

Homelessness is growing across New Mexico, especially in Albuquerque, where the homeless population has been rising by nearly 18% each year and a person living on the streets dies, on average, every four days. We need to build a system where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Many homeless individuals suffer from mental health and substance abuse challenges. We need to help them.

I will ensure that state agencies on the newly formed Behavioral Health Executive Committee address the needs of those who are homeless and I will require substance disorder and/or mental health treatment be provided for those who need it.

I do support requiring people - often unhoused - who consistently break the law in minor ways and who refuse treatment to INVOLUNTARILY enter into substance abuse or mental health treatment, which might include incarceration. New Mexico has invested heavily in behavioral health treatment. Let's get people the help they need so they do not reoffend, get off the street and back on their feet.

TACKLE HOMELESSNESS WITH URGENCY

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Cut homelessness statewide in half in my first two years, with sufficient infrastructure to continue to make record-setting reductions in homelessness in the years to follow. New Mexicans need to see real progress, not just ribbon cuttings.**
- ✔ **End homelessness for veterans, youth, and survivors of domestic violence – three groups who should never be left behind.**
- ✔ **Build a statewide data system that integrates hospitals, shelters, and service providers, tracking who is homeless, what services they need, and whether programs are effective. Providers receiving state dollars will be required to report outcomes. This will allow us to see if we are really making progress and ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars.**
- ✔ **Launch a Governor’s Homelessness Dashboard to track progress toward housing people in the first year so that New Mexicans see the results in real time.**

TACKLE HOMELESSNESS WITH URGENCY

- ✔ **Strengthen immediate shelters and pathways to stability. We will follow the proven Housing First model by getting people into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Shelters must be more than a bed for the night; they must serve as short-term entry points that connect people directly to permanent housing and the supportive services that help them stay housed and rebuild their lives. I will:**
 - ✔ **Set a statewide One-Stop Hub standard. Too many shelters in New Mexico are just warehouses. I will require every state-supported shelter – whether in Las Cruces, Gallup, or rural counties – to provide meals, showers, laundry, case management, and job services. A new state grant program will tie funding to performance and services provided, not just the number of beds.**
 - ✔ **Fix Gateway and make it deliver results. I will ensure Gateway lives up to its original design working in partnership with local entities to support behavioral health and housing funds to expand treatment beds, navigation staff, and transitional units, and I will require clear outcome reporting so the public can see whether it is helping people move into stable housing. If it delivers results, even Gateway, which has faced challenges in the past, could serve as a model that we can replicate in other regions of New Mexico.**

TACKLE HOMELESSNESS WITH URGENCY

✓ Upgrade the Westside Emergency Housing Center, which remains the state's largest shelter and the only facility that can house hundreds of people immediately, especially in winter and the middle of the summer when demand surges. I will increase operating funds to add staff, extend bus service to connect residents with jobs and services, and contract with providers and nonprofits for on-site case management, physical and behavioral health care including addiction recovery, and job training. Under my plan, these facilities will anchor a stronger system that protects people in crisis while connecting them to permanent housing.

✓ Add capacity across the state. Outside Albuquerque, I will convert motels and hotels into transitional housing using state appropriations and federal HUD funds. I will expand wellness hotels for families through a state-local matching fund, so children are never left on the streets. And I will deploy modular units and tiny-home villages in high-need areas, using expedited permitting to move quickly.

✓ Expand permanent supportive housing. New Mexico has only a fraction of the supportive housing units it needs. I will expand permanent supportive housing that combines rental assistance with behavioral health care, recovery programs, and job training. This will be funded through Medicaid waivers, state general funds, and opioid settlement dollars dedicated to recovery housing.

✓ End homelessness for veterans, youth, and survivors of domestic violence. I will expand veteran housing vouchers and supportive housing targeted at PTSD and addiction. I will launch statewide transitional programs for youth aging out of foster care and LGBTQ youth, building on small nonprofit pilots in Albuquerque. And I will expand domestic violence shelters with dedicated funding for culturally specific and pet-friendly facilities.

TACKLE HOMELESSNESS WITH URGENCY

- ✓ Prevent homelessness before it happens. The most effective way to reduce homelessness is to stop it before it starts.
- ✓ Expand rental assistance to help families cover rent when they face setbacks like job loss or medical bills.
- ✓ Create eviction diversion programs. I will partner with the courts to expand mediation and rental relief before an eviction is finalized.

✓ Launch employer partnerships. I will match employer contributions to rental deposits or down payments, supported by tax credits for businesses that help their workers secure housing.

✓ Strengthen community partnerships. We cannot solve homelessness without a community-wide response. I will partner with local entities, Tribes, nonprofits, and faith-based groups to expand culturally appropriate housing and services statewide, recognizing that homelessness is not just a government problem – it is a community problem requiring a community solution.

New Mexico's housing crisis demands bold action on every front: helping families buy their first home, building more affordable rentals, cutting red tape so we can build faster, and tackling homelessness with urgency and compassion.

We will expand homeownership, lower rents, and speed up construction while ensuring shelters connect people to stable housing.

With clear goals, accountability, and the courage to stand up to powerful interests, we can make visible progress and protect families across the state. Together, we will build a New Mexico where every child, every veteran, and every family has a safe place to call home.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Sam Bregman's Vision for Economic Development in New Mexico

New Mexico's economy has enormous untapped potential but too many families still struggle with rising costs, stagnant wages, and limited opportunities close to home. Our state has world-class energy, technology, and cultural assets – yet too often we export our talent and ideas rather than building prosperity here. As governor, I will make economic development my top priority: lowering costs for working families, supporting local entrepreneurs and small businesses, and attracting new investments that create good-paying jobs in every community. I will make New Mexico the best place in the country to start a business, raise a family, and build a future.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Create high-paying jobs in the industries of the future. Our future prosperity depends on diversifying beyond oil and gas. We will lead in clean energy, quantum and national security tech, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, and trade – keeping talent here and creating high-wage jobs across the state.**
- ✔ Make New Mexico the best state to start and grow a business. Small businesses drive job growth, but too many face barriers to capital, red tape, and competition from out-of-state corporations. We will expand access to capital, simplify rules, and give local entrepreneurs the tools to succeed.**
- ✔ Build real paths to good jobs. Too many New Mexicans are working low-wage jobs or leaving the state because they can't connect training to real employment. We will expand apprenticeships, guarantee training-to-hiring pipelines, and ensure that every student graduates with a next step.**

✓ **Revitalize rural and Tribal Economies. No community should be left behind. We will invest in infrastructure, Tribal entrepreneurship, agriculture, tourism, and local businesses so that prosperity reaches every corner of the state.**

✓ **Make New Mexico a top destination by doubling tourism, attracting high-value international visitors, building signature cultural and outdoor experiences, and ensuring communities statewide share in the benefits.**

✓ **Lower costs and cut Taxes. Families are being squeezed by rising costs for groceries, healthcare, housing, and childcare. We will cut middle-class taxes, stop taxing essentials, and lower everyday costs so paychecks go further.**

1 **CREATE HIGH-PAYING JOBS IN THE INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE**

For more than a century, New Mexico's economy has depended heavily on oil and gas. But with global demand projected to peak before 2030, we must diversify or risk being left behind. While we should benefit from oil and gas revenues while we can, we also have some of the best wind, solar, and geothermal resources in the nation but lack the infrastructure to fully capture them. We need to build new industries on the foundation of our world-class labs, universities, and resources – but too many of our most highly trained graduates, including those in cutting-edge quantum science, leave the state for jobs elsewhere. At the same time, our location makes us a natural hub for trade, manufacturing, and nearshoring, while our agricultural heritage can be a source of both rural jobs and innovation. With the right plan and right leadership, New Mexico can shift from an oil-and-gas-dependent economy to a more diversified economy that also creates high-wage, jobs of the future across clean energy, quantum and national security technology, innovation hubs, advanced manufacturing, trade, and agriculture.

As governor, I will make sure we offer incentives like those we offer the film industry to grow other key industries. New Mexico became a leader in film and television because we offered smart incentives and built a full ecosystem around it. I will bring that same model to the industries of the future from quantum to clean energy to advanced manufacturing. I will empower the Economic Development Department to make direct investments in promising companies, create targeted incentives, and provide the resources that help startups grow into major employers. With the right strategy, we can do for high-tech industries what we did for film — and deliver even greater long-term benefits for New Mexico families.

1 CREATE HIGH-PAYING JOBS IN THE INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE

As governor, I will:

✓ Lead the nation in clean energy. New Mexico is ranked among the very top states for solar and wind potential, and renewables already supply about half of our in-state electricity. I will accelerate investment in transmission, wind, solar, and geothermal to capture our full potential. Different regions have unique opportunities: The southeast and northwest are well-positioned for geothermal pilots and brackish water reuse tied to energy development, while the Navajo Nation region can lead in hydrogen pilots and solar deployment. By building on these regional strengths, we will make New Mexico the nation's clean energy capital. Read more in my full plan for making New Mexico the new nation's new energy capital.

✓ Make New Mexico the epicenter of quantum and national security technology. Quantum computing, directed energy, aerospace, and advanced robotics are the building blocks of tomorrow's economy and are also vital to our national defense. These are industries where New Mexico—and especially Central New Mexico—already has a unique edge because of Sandia and Los Alamos National Labs, White Sands Missile Range, and the University of New Mexico's Quantum Information Science Center. Yet too often, discoveries made in our labs – and the highly trained graduates who work on them – leave the state for jobs elsewhere. I will change that by providing financial incentives for quantum businesses to locate and grow in New Mexico, retaining top graduates through innovation fellowships, building new facilities where researchers and entrepreneurs can turn discoveries into companies, and creating partnerships to bring more private investment into startups rooted in New Mexico's labs and universities. This will grow entire industries with good jobs in quantum science, aerospace, robotics, and dual-use defense technology.

1 **CREATE HIGH-PAYING JOBS IN THE INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE**

✓ **Build innovation hubs across the state. I will establish Regional Technology Hubs tied to local universities, Tribal colleges, and incubators, with matching funds to win federal grants and voucher programs giving small businesses access to lab expertise. Each hub will anchor small business accelerators and apprenticeships so that local workers and companies benefit directly. Communities across the state have unique strengths to build on, from Socorro's leadership in advanced telecommunications to Gallup's rail access for manufacturing and logistics. By anchoring hubs in local assets, we can spread innovation to regions across the state.**

✓ **Expand trade and nearshoring opportunities. I will invest in rail, highway, and port-of-entry upgrades, incentivize firms to bring operations back from overseas, and work with Mexico to strengthen cross-border trade. Communities like Santa Teresa, with its border location, are positioned to lead in vehicle supply chains, battery manufacturing, and cross-border logistics. The benefits of nearshoring will extend to trucking, warehousing, and trade jobs across the state, and I'll expand logistics training programs to ensure New Mexicans are first in line for those jobs.**

1 **CREATE HIGH-PAYING JOBS IN THE INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE**

Grow advanced manufacturing with intention. I will create site-ready industrial parks offer refundable tax credits for manufacturers in clean energy and defense supply chains, expand advanced manufacturing training, and strengthen Buy New Mexico procurement initiatives so that state agencies buy more locally produced goods. Central New Mexico can grow precision manufacturing tied to quantum and aerospace, Santa Teresa can lead in EV supply chains and battery production, Gallup has opportunities in rail-adjacent parts and logistics, and the southeast and northwest can expand advanced materials linked to energy development. By building on these regional strengths, we will create good jobs and stronger supply chains statewide.

2 **MAKE NEW MEXICO THE BEST STATE TO START AND GROW A BUSINESS**

Small businesses are a critical engine of job growth, accounting for 99% of all businesses in New Mexico and employing more than half of the state's workforce. Yet today, fewer new businesses are opening than in past decades, and big corporations are taking up more space in the economy. That means less innovation, fewer choices for consumers, and fewer opportunities for everyday people to build wealth and create jobs in their own communities. New Mexico also ranks near the bottom nationally in small business contribution to the economy, and many entrepreneurs in the state face barriers to capital, permitting delays, and limited technical support. As Governor, I will make New Mexico the easiest place in America to start and grow a small business.

As governor, I will:

✔ **Expand access to capital. Many aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly in rural and underserved communities, lack access to startup funds. I'll:**

✔ **Partner with community banks to provide forgivable, low-interest loans to entrepreneurs who have a good idea but lack the resources to get it off the ground or grow. These loans could help someone buy a truck and tools to start a plumbing or HVAC business, build a website and market an event planning company, turn a side hustle into a storefront or warehouse, or hire workers to take on bigger contracts and create local jobs.**

✔ **Expand public-private venture capital funds to help high-potential businesses in our state access the investment they need to grow by matching it responsibly with targeted public capital – especially in industries where we have a competitive edge.**

MAKE NEW MEXICO THE BEST STATE TO START AND GROW A BUSINESS

✔ **Prioritize local procurement.** I will direct more state contracts to local small businesses, keeping wealth in our communities, and raising the share of contracts going to New Mexico firms from about half today to two-thirds by 2030.

✔ **Partner with the federal government to allow people to use unemployment benefits to start a new business.** Starting a business can be one of the best ways to bounce back after a layoff – but under today’s unemployment insurance system, most workers lose their benefits if they stop looking for a traditional job, even if they’re spending that time trying to launch a business. We’ll implement the federal Self-Employment Assistance program so that New Mexicans can use UI benefits while launching a business, just as states like Oregon and New York have done.

✔ **Make launching and growing a business as straightforward as finding a job.** One-Stop Business Starter Portal with Starter Kit. I will unify business registration, tax, licensing, and workforce filings into one online platform, so that entrepreneurs no longer have to navigate multiple state agencies. Inside the portal, every entrepreneur will get a free Business Starter Kit – plain-language guides, tax checklists, and ready-to-use templates for LLC filings, leases, and employee handbooks. This means a small business owner won’t have to hire a lawyer just to get started.

✔ **Initiate support navigators and incubators.** We will expand Small Business Development Centers, chambers of commerce, and Tribal partners into a network of “navigators” linked through the portal and providing one-on-one help online and in-person. We’ll also open new business incubators to help with accounting support, legal services, contracting opportunities, shared office space, and mentorship, so anyone with a good idea can turn it into a business.

2 MAKE NEW MEXICO THE BEST STATE TO START AND GROW A BUSINESS

✓ **Fast-track permitting . Partner with cities and counties to guarantee express turnaround times for small business permits and licenses.**

✓ **Cut outdated rules and pilot new business models. Too many small businesses get tied up in red tape because our rules haven't kept up with innovation. I will launch a comprehensive review of state regulations to clear away outdated requirements that block entrepreneurs. At the same time, we will pilot simplified rules in key industries of the future so entrepreneurs can test and launch new models quickly while still protecting consumers.**

✓ **Attract more entrepreneurs and skilled workers to New Mexico. "Move to New Mexico" incentive. We lose too many talented people to other states, and we need to start winning them back. I will create a time-limited income tax credit for entrepreneurs and skilled workers who relocate to New Mexico to start a business, return after college, or bring specialized skills in high-demand, high-growth fields. By making New Mexico the most welcoming state for people ready to build their careers, we can grow our population, strengthen our workforce, and expand our tax base.**

✓ **Per-job hiring tax credit to help small businesses create jobs. I will provide small businesses with a refundable state tax credit of \$5,000 for each net new job created. This credit will help local businesses expand, put more New Mexicans to work, and reward employers who are creating opportunities here at home.**

3 BUILD REAL PATHS TO GOOD JOBS

New Mexico faces a deep disconnect between its people and its economy. Employers across the state struggle to fill jobs in high-demand industries, while too many New Mexicans are underemployed, working multiple low-wage jobs, or in training programs that don't lead to jobs. Rural communities in particular struggle to find good jobs. The result is that young people often see leaving New Mexico to find careers elsewhere. I will develop real paths to good jobs and real opportunities for good careers that don't leave people in debt.

As governor, I will:

✓ **Develop training programs with a hiring guarantee, by bringing together business leaders, labor, community colleges, high schools, and other community organizations in priority industry sectors to develop industry-led, sector-specific training programs that meet real hiring needs. We will ask businesses to commit to hiring graduates of the training program – and require businesses receiving taxpayer funding to do so.**

✓ **Scale apprenticeships. I will work with unions and employers to expand earn-while-you-learn programs in high-demand industries with good-paying jobs. Apprenticeships can give New Mexicans a paycheck and a pathway to a good job at the same time.**

3 BUILD REAL PATHS TO GOOD JOBS

- ✓ **Hire effective career navigators in every community. Private career services charge thousands to help executives map out their next move and land the right job. Every New Mexican should have access to services like that, so they don't need to navigate the job market on their own. We will provide every worker with access to career services to provide both training and job guidance, connections to the right training or job opportunities, resume assistance, and interview prep.**
- ✓ **Make sure every high school student has a next step and is prepared for life beyond high school. We will require schools to connect every senior to a job, apprenticeship, trade program, or college enrollment before graduation. We will support them by helping to fund programs like career and technical education, dual enrollment programs, pre-apprenticeships, and modernized high school curriculum standards that include financial, digital, and media literacy.**
- ✓ **Eliminate unnecessary college degree requirements for government jobs – and challenge the business community to do the same.**
- ✓ **Require employers to disclose pay ranges and prohibit retaliation for discussing wages.**
- ✓ **Expand incentives for businesses that hire, train, and promote women in high-demand fields.**

4 **REVITALIZE RURAL AND TRIBAL ECONOMIES**

New Mexico cannot succeed if only Albuquerque and Santa Fe thrive. In too many rural counties, more than one in four New Mexicans live in poverty. Tribal communities face additional barriers with infrastructure, but they also hold extraordinary opportunities in renewable energy, cultural tourism, and entrepreneurship. Revitalizing rural and Tribal economies will mean stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger New Mexico.

✓ **Support Tribal and rural entrepreneurship. I will partner directly with Tribal governments and rural communities to expand Native- and locally owned businesses, invest in clean energy pilots and deployments, and provide capital for small business growth. These partnerships will respect sovereignty and rural identity while driving innovation and job creation across the state.**

✓ **Fund rural and Tribal infrastructure. Infrastructure is the foundation for economic growth. I will deliver broadband, reliable water systems, safe roads, and other basic infrastructure across rural New Mexico so families in Farmington, Gallup, and Shiprock have the same access to opportunity as families in Albuquerque.**

✓ **Bring industries of the future to rural New Mexico. Our innovation economy cannot stop at Albuquerque. I will work with rural and tribal leaders to match each community's assets with the right industry — utility-scale solar and wind where transmission lines exist, data centers where land and power are abundant, and advanced manufacturing and robotics anchored to our labs and universities. We'll offer incentives, streamline permitting, and more to create good-paying jobs close to home while ensuring growth reaches every corner of the state.**

4 REVITALIZE RURAL AND TRIBAL ECONOMIES

✓ Expand value-added agriculture and food processing. New Mexico farmers and ranchers shouldn't have to ship raw products out-of-state and watch others profit from adding value to them. I will help our producers move up the value chain by providing state grants and tax credits to build and expand processing facilities, supporting farmer co-ops and tribal enterprises that want to bottle milk, roast chile, or package beef right here in New Mexico. I will expand farm-to-school and hospital purchasing so local processors have steady markets, and invest in food hubs, cold storage, and transport so small farmers can reach bigger buyers. With the right facilities and support, New Mexico can keep more of the wealth from our chile, cheese, pecans, and beef in our local communities – creating jobs in rural areas and making our state's food products known nationwide.

✓ Invest in tourism and outdoor recreation. I will expand cultural tourism, heritage sites, and outdoor recreation economies across rural New Mexico. From hunting and fishing to Tribal history and arts, our rural communities can become destinations for the world – creating jobs while celebrating New Mexico's identity. I discuss this further in my Conservation plan.

5 MAKE CULTURE, THE OUTDOORS, AND TOURISM ENGINES OF GROWTH

New Mexico's identity is one of our greatest economic strengths. People come here for experiences they cannot find anywhere else: pueblos and Feast Days, Route 66, chile harvests, the Balloon Fiesta, Santa Fe's art and opera, and world-class landscapes. Yet too often, our attractions are scattered, seasonal, and marketed in isolation. Visitors come for a single event or city, then leave. To make tourism a true driver of growth, I will extend stays, attract visitors that contribute to the economy, and give communities the tools to benefit.

As governor, I will:

✓ Create a bold strategy to double tourism in the next decade — making New Mexico a top destination for art, culture, food, and outdoor adventure. To do this, I will launch a statewide visitor study to underpin this strategy and then create a Cultural Economy Commission to implement that strategy and put New Mexico on the map. I will direct the Tourism Department to conduct a statewide visitor study so we know exactly why people choose New Mexico, what keeps them away, and how to get them to stay longer. At the same time, I will bring together cultural leaders in New Mexico and across the nation, business owners, state agencies, Tribes, and local governments in a new Cultural Economy Commission.

✓ Expand international marketing to attract high-value visitors. International visitors stay longer and spend more per trip than domestic travelers. I will expand campaigns in Mexico City, Madrid, London, and Tokyo to bring more international visitors here. By positioning New Mexico as the authentic cultural alternative to Colorado or Arizona, I will grow high-value tourism that benefits communities statewide.

5 MAKE CULTURE, THE OUTDOORS, AND TOURISM ENGINES OF GROWTH

Develop signature experiences that increase visitor stays. I will package our cultural and natural assets into multi-day itineraries and trails that encourage people to spend a week instead of a weekend. I will establish new statewide cultural trails, including a Native Nations Heritage Trail, a Camino Real and Hispano Trail, and a Science and Space Trail. I will expand the Rio Grande Trail and support the creation of new parks such as Slot Canyon Riverlands State Park near Las Cruces, so rural and southern New Mexico share in the growth.



Make creative industries a core pillar of the tourism economy. States that have invested in cultural marketing and trails have seen major returns – Massachusetts’ cultural districts generate over \$80 million a year, and Philadelphia’s cultural campaign brought in \$432 million in new spending in just one year. We will apply lessons from other states here, including by expanding our signature pueblo arts markets and chile festivals so that they become true “visitor destinations,” launching statewide film and culture tours that turn New Mexico’s filming locations, food, and heritage sites into a bookable experience, and more. These steps will extend visitor stays, boost spending, and ensure our creative communities share directly in the benefits of tourism.



5 MAKE CULTURE, THE OUTDOORS, AND TOURISM ENGINES OF GROWTH

Expand outdoor recreation as a foundation for tourism. Outdoor recreation already drives more than \$3 billion in annual economic output and supports nearly 30,000 jobs across New Mexico. I will expand outdoor access so that every New Mexico location is within 30 minutes of a trail, river, or open space. I will open blocked lands through

✓ voluntary easements and partnerships with Tribes and landowners, build new trailheads and signage and improve facilities like restrooms and safe parking at high-use sites. I will also expand the Rio Grande Trail and link it to regional and Tribal trail systems, creating a network that attracts visitors while supporting rural economies. By making outdoor recreation more accessible, I will grow tourism, strengthen local businesses, and give families across the state more opportunities to enjoy New Mexico's land and water. Read more in my conservation plan.

6 LOWER COSTS AND CUT TAXES

Everyday life has gotten more expensive for New Mexicans. Since 2021, the cost of groceries, gas, rent, and other basics has climbed by more than 22 percent – adding over \$1,000 a month to the average family’s bills. But paychecks haven’t kept up. In our largest counties, wages have only risen about 4 to 5 percent over the same time. Families are being asked to do more with less, stretching every dollar just to cover the basics. Everything I’ve outlined so far will help create higher-paying jobs and raise incomes across New Mexico. But we also need bold action to cut middle-class taxes and lower costs, helping New Mexicans make ends meet and get ahead.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Boost child and working family tax credits.** Right now, New Mexico families can qualify for up to \$600 per child each year through our refundable Child Tax Credit, as well as the state’s Working Families Tax Credit – our version of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit – which grows as you work more. I will increase the Child Tax Credit so families get more per child, and expand the Working Families Tax Credit so that hard work pays off even more.

6 LOWER COSTS AND CUT TAXES

✓ Lower the cost of housing by building more starter homes and cutting red tape. Over the past decade, home prices in New Mexico have jumped more than 60% while wages rose less than half that pace. Too many families are priced out of homeownership and stuck renting, which drives rents even higher. I will make housing more affordable by building more homes families can actually afford, cutting red tape so we build faster, and stopping Wall Street investors from driving up prices. I will build starter homes and help first-time buyers, expand affordable rental construction near jobs and schools, and modernize permitting and zoning so projects move in months instead of years. With these steps, we will lower rents, increase homeownership, and make sure every New Mexican has a fair shot at a safe and stable place to live. Read more about how I will lower housing costs in my plan to address housing and homelessness.

✓ Lower health care costs by ending New Mexico's outdated tax on medical, dental, and behavioral health services, one of the few states that still taxes people for going to the doctor. I will expand rural health care tax credits and create new state income tax credits to offset malpractice insurance premiums for physicians, nurses, and other providers, helping them stay in practice and lowering costs for patients. By reducing paperwork, streamlining licensing, and simplifying insurance requirements, I will cut administrative waste so providers can focus on care instead of red tape. These reforms, paired with stronger investments in Medicaid and workforce retention, will protect families from rising costs while strengthening access to affordable care. Read more in my health care plan.

6 LOWER COSTS AND CUT TAXES

New Mexico can either watch the 2030 economy pass us by or lead in building it. My economic development plan lowers costs, grows small businesses, invests in workers, and makes our state a hub for innovation and security. Most importantly, it ties growth to family well-being and community stability – so the next generation can build their lives right here in New Mexico.

This is more than a plan for jobs. It is a vision for a fairer, stronger, and more future-ready New Mexico.

A LASTING LEGACY

Sam Bregman's Conservation and Water Solutions for New Mexico

A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR NEW MEXICO

New Mexico's land, water, and skies define who we are. They shape our culture, our economy, and our way of life. Families fish and hike on weekends, farmers and ranchers depend on reliable water, and small businesses across the state benefit when people travel to hunt, camp, and explore. The state's natural beauty drives over \$3 billion in annual economic output from outdoor recreation and land stewardship, supporting nearly 30,000 jobs across the state, especially in rural areas. Communities that invest in clean water, forest health, and outdoor access attract new residents and businesses.

But today our environment faces historic challenges. Drought threatens household taps and working lands. Wildfires are putting homes and drinking water at risk. Too many kids and families can't safely enjoy the outdoors even though it's part of our heritage. And when land and wildlife are lost, so are the jobs and small businesses that depend on them.

As governor, I'll tackle these challenges head-on with practical solutions New Mexicans can see and feel in their daily lives, making our state the best place in the country to live and build a future. My plans set ambitious and concrete goals to improve quality of life, attract families, create jobs, cut public costs, and grow the economy.

A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR NEW MEXICO

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Expand outdoor access and conserve our land so that every New Mexican can reach a trail, river, or open space within 30 minutes, while keeping these places permanently protected for future generations.**
- ✓ **Protect water for families and farmers so that wells don't run dry, farms can keep producing, and every community has a safe and reliable supply.**
- ✓ **Promote water quality and alleviate pressure on our freshwater reserves through alternative water sources, such as brackish water, produced water and reuse water, and desalination.**
- ✓ **Keep homes and neighborhoods safe from wildfires by reducing risk before disaster strikes and helping families fire-proof their properties.**
- ✓ **Protect wildlife and the outdoor economy by building crossings and conserving migration corridors, which makes roads more safe, hunting and fishing more robust, and small-town businesses more secure.**
- ✓ **Protect environmental justice and public safety through tough law enforcement.**

This is about more than conservation. It's about clean water in our taps, safe homes and neighborhoods, jobs in every corner of the state, and passing on a healthier New Mexico to our kids.

EXPAND OUTDOOR ACCESS AND CONSERVE PUBLIC LANDS

New Mexico's public lands are part of who we are. They provide places to hunt, fish, hike, and gather firewood, while also supporting our water, wildlife, and local economies. Under Governor Lujan Grisham, our state has set a bold goal to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030 and 50% by 2050. We've made progress, but too much land remains vulnerable to development or locked away from the people who should be able to enjoy it.

As Governor, I will fight to conserve more public lands and make them easier for people to enjoy – including by setting a goal that every New Mexican has safe, reliable outdoor access within 30 minutes of where they live, whether it's a trail, river, hunting area, or open space.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Expand outdoor access and conserve our land so that every New Mexican can reach a trail, river, or open space within 30 minutes, while keeping these places permanently protected for future generations.**
- ✓ Protect water for families and farmers so that wells don't run dry, farms can keep producing, and every community has a safe and reliable supply.**
- ✓ Promote water quality and alleviate pressure on our freshwater reserves through alternative water sources, such as brackish water, produced water and reuse water, and desalination.**

EXPAND OUTDOOR ACCESS AND CONSERVE PUBLIC LANDS

- ✔ **Keep homes and neighborhoods safe from wildfires by reducing risk before disaster strikes and helping families fire-proof their properties.**
- ✔ **Protect wildlife and the outdoor economy by building crossings and conserving migration corridors, which makes roads more safe, hunting and fishing more robust, and small-town businesses more secure.**
- ✔ **Protect environmental justice and public safety through tough law enforcement.**

EXPAND OUTDOOR ACCESS AND CONSERVE PUBLIC LANDS

Open blocked land. Public access to public land is a fundamental right. Yet, large portions of state and federal land are blocked off or hard to reach because they are “landlocked” by surrounding private property, or even a lack of roads and signage. The Sabinoso Wilderness near Las Vegas was once public but inaccessible; once access was secured, however, the 30,000-acre area now draws hikers and hunters and supports local businesses. I’ll work hand-in-hand with landowners, Tribes, and local communities to scale programs like this statewide, including by:



Vegas was once public but inaccessible; once access was secured, however, the 30,000-acre area now draws hikers and hunters and supports local businesses. I’ll work hand-in-hand with landowners, Tribes, and local communities to scale programs like this statewide, including by:



Using voluntary easements, right-of-way agreements, and small payments or tax credits for landowners who agree to public passage.



Respecting cultural and seasonal needs in sensitive areas by establishing shared-use agreements with Tribes and local communities to set clear rules such as limiting access during ceremonies, closing trails during wildlife breeding seasons, or capping visitor numbers.



Supporting community-led pilots in rural towns and Tribal communities whereby local governments or Pueblos design their own access rules and land protection strategies. This will ensure cultural sites are safeguarded and local values guide conservation, while still opening land for recreation.



Building safe and clear entry points, quickly, with a Rapid Access Fund for low-cost improvements like trailheads, gates, signage, and safe parking – so that small barriers don’t stop people from enjoying their land. At the same time, we’ll fund trailhead upgrades, restrooms at high-use sites, and road repairs that reduce emergency rescues.

EXPAND OUTDOOR ACCESS AND CONSERVE PUBLIC LANDS

- ✓ **Conserve and steward high-value lands.** Access doesn't mean much in the long run if land is later sold off, fenced, or degraded. conserving our land benefits New Mexico in countless ways, generating funding for trails, visitor centers, watershed restoration, and wildlife crossings – investments that strengthen local economies. For example, we recently secured millions of dollars for a wildlife crossing near Santa Ana Pueblo and for restoration in the San Juan watershed. I'll secure permanent conservation protections for high-value lands so that access remains open for generations, while also restoring and stewarding the land itself. I'll:
- ✓ **Focus conservation on high-priority lands.** I'll prioritize protections for the places that matter most — wildlife migration routes and habitats that keep biodiversity strong, culturally significant Tribal sites, and open spaces near communities that provide recreation and resilience against climate change. These protections will ensure lands are safe for people and wildlife alike.
- ✓ **Invest in stewardship.** Stewardship is just as important as conservation. If we don't take care of the lands we already have, they can be overrun by invasive species, degraded by erosion, or left unusable for future generations. I'll invest in partnerships with Tribes, ranchers, acequias, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to restore rivers, repair arroyos, and protect watersheds. We'll also expand climate-smart infrastructure and support Tribal and community-led stewardship models that blend traditional knowledge with modern science.

EXPAND OUTDOOR ACCESS AND CONSERVE PUBLIC LANDS

✓ **Grow conservation-centric jobs for New Mexicans. I'll expand New Mexico's Conservation Corps model to deliver these projects while creating jobs in trail building, habitat restoration, water access, and cultural site protection – targeting hiring in rural, Tribal, and veteran communities.**

✓ **Improve access for families and kids, starting with a fourth-grade park pass and outdoor programs like campaign and fishing. I'll provide every New Mexico fourth grader and their family with a free annual pass to state parks to instill a love of the outdoors from an early age. I'll partner with schools to offer field lessons in outdoor skills, ecology, and New Mexico history, while partnering with the Conservation Corps, veterans groups, and outfitters to provide free or low-cost camping and fishing clinics for kids and families new to the outdoors so they can participate with confidence.**

✓ **Bring in federal dollars for access and conservation. Billions in federal conservation funding are available, but small towns and rural communities often lack the technical staff to compete. I'll make sure New Mexico captures our fair share — and that local governments, acequias, and Tribes get the support they need to tap into these resources for trails, visitor facilities, watershed restoration, and wildlife crossings.**

CONSERVE WATER AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM DROUGHT

Nearly 9 in 10 New Mexicans now live in drought-declared areas, driven by climate change and outdated infrastructure. Rising temperatures and reduced snowpacks have created one of the worst droughts in centuries, with this year's January–May period ranking among the driest 10 percent since records began in 1895. Families worry about wells running low. Towns impose restrictions as water levels drop. Farmers and ranchers face unpredictable irrigation seasons. The long-term outlook is equally concerning. State climatologists project that streamflow in New Mexico's rivers could decline by as much as 25% over the next 50 years if warming and drought trends continue.

In addition to lowering greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the impacts of climate change, which my energy plan details, we can make sure every New Mexican has clean, reliable water with updated infrastructure and smart water conservation.

We must focus on:

- **Sustainability:** Meeting today's needs without sacrificing future generations' access to clean water.
- **Smart Water Management:** Stewardship of water resources in an evolving environment.
- **Equity:** Fair enforcement of rules, regulations, and policies for all New Mexicans.

CONSERVE WATER AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM DROUGHT

As governor, I will:

✓ **Help families and farmers save water with modern tools. I'll offer financial assistance to help families, small businesses, and farms save water, including by fixing leaks, upgrading appliances, and installing drip irrigation, soil sensors, and water-recycling systems that stretch every gallon. These efforts can both preserve water and save families money on bills. Also, I am a strong advocate for private property and senior water rights, and support initiatives that help farmers voluntarily fallow land in exchange for compensation during drought.**

✓ **Build resilience and fix infrastructure. Too many towns wait years while billions in state and federal dollars go unused. I'll cut red tape, fast-track priority projects, and make sure rural and Tribal communities get technical support to compete for funds. At the same time, we'll expand safe new sources like reuse, brackish water treatment, and water recycling so we're not draining aquifers in dry years.**

✓ **Restore rivers and watersheds. Healthy rivers and watersheds store water naturally and protect us from flooding. I'll expand restoration projects that remove invasive plants, rebuild streambeds, and bring back wetlands so ecosystems hold more water and release it slowly during dry months.**

✓ **Protect acequias, Tribal water rights, and family farms. Centuries-old acequia systems and Tribal water rights are the foundation of New Mexico's culture and rural economy. I'll protect these traditions and ensure they remain central to how water is managed. We'll support fair agreements during shortages and make sure local communities and family farms aren't left dry during droughts.**

CONSERVE WATER AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM DROUGHT

Plan for the long haul. I'll fully implement and update the state's 50-year water plan, with real input from local communities and the best science available to identify and address gaps in water supply and throughout New Mexico.

- ✔ That means mapping aquifers, improving data collection, and making sure every community has a long-term strategy to balance supply and demand.

Make water literacy a statewide priority. Every household, farmer, and business should know how to conserve and protect water. I'll launch education programs in schools, community workshops, and public campaigns so conservation becomes second nature.

- ✔

Conduct characterization and data collection on the quality and quantity of New Mexico's aquifers, which are affected by reduced surface water and aging infrastructure, particularly in rural regions.

- ✔

Support the NM Water Data Act platform to enable better decision making for our state's water management agencies.

- ✔

Invest in enhanced stormwater management and improved water capture strategies, especially in the Lower Rio Grande region due to increased storm intensity and heavier monsoons.

- ✔

Collaborate with Colorado River Basin states as the river produces water shortage. San Juan Chama water and its contracts are vital to northern New Mexico communities and Tribes, who all face challenges from Colorado River Basin shortages. This may increase reliance on shared aquifers and necessitate new equitable distribution strategies.

- ✔

CONSERVE WATER AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM DROUGHT

As governor, I will:

- If needed, assist and support the State of New Mexico in the Texas v. New Mexico litigation. The United States Supreme Court will ultimately determine whether to accept the settlement and dismiss the current case. Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and the United States have reached an agreement in principle on a set of settlements intended to collectively address and resolve several outstanding disputes, including those presently under litigation in Texas v. New Mexico.**
- Work to settle outstanding water right claims with the 6 Middle Rio Grande Pueblos and prioritize the settlement of all Tribal claims for long-term harmony and cooperation among all interested parties through respect for the sovereignty of the State and Pueblos.**

PROMOTE WATER QUALITY AND EXPAND WATER SUPPLY

New Mexico faces persistent challenges regarding both water scarcity and water quality: The well-being of every New Mexican, regardless of background or community, depends on access to a sustainable and safe water supply.

New Mexico has a finite supply of water resources and the gap between available supply and demand is expected to grow. There is increasing competition for New Mexico's water resources between municipalities, agriculture, industry, endangered species, and Tribal claims, to name a few. In particular, new water supplies must be secured for both the Middle and Lower Rio Grande regions to support current and future needs and ensure economic sustainability.

In addition, most projections from New Mexico's most qualified scientists and water experts predict that over the next 50 years, New Mexico will have approximately 25% less water available in rivers and aquifers.

Without reliable water, New Mexico cannot thrive or fulfill its potential. Persistent drought has forced increased reliance on groundwater – our reserve for dry times. And as Texas and Lower Rio Grande regions look upstream, Multi-pronged solutions involving new technologies – such as advanced treatment, water reuse, and even the possible importation of bulk water – will be necessary over the next 50-100 years. We will need multiple and distributed sources of water, including non-traditional waters, treated and delivered at the "right" quality at the "right" time.

PROMOTE WATER QUALITY AND EXPAND WATER SUPPLY

Agriculture is particularly vulnerable. Ag consumes roughly 80% of New Mexico's water, making it especially vulnerable to surface shortages and declining aquifers. The sector stands to benefit significantly from introducing treated brackish and produced water, particularly in southeastern regions reliant on the Ogallala aquifer. Continued investigation into the use of these sources will support ongoing agricultural productivity.

The need to explore alternative water sources, such as brackish water, produced water and reuse water, is urgent. If effectively treated and managed through advances in desalination and reuse technologies, these sources could significantly boost the supply for agriculture, power generation, and manufacturing, thereby alleviating pressure on our freshwater reserves.

As governor, I will:

✓ Propose consolidating water management agencies under a Department of Natural Resources, and advancing projects focused on water reuse, desalination, and "Fit for Purpose" uses of treated produced water.

✓ Transform New Mexico's water markets by expanding the use of treated brackish water, produced water, and reclaimed water to enhance freshwater supplies. This approach will support economic development, create opportunities for agricultural production, aid in drought mitigation, facilitate green hydrogen production, and contribute to natural carbon sequestration through grass cultivation on fallow land.

PROMOTE WATER QUALITY AND EXPAND WATER SUPPLY

- ✔ Monitor and collect data on the quality and quantity of New Mexico's aquifers, which are affected by reduced surface water and aging infrastructure, particularly in rural regions, and support the New Mexico Water Data Act platform to enable better decision making for our state's water management agencies.
- ✔ Support and promote the filling of science and technology gaps regarding what contaminants are in the produced water generated in New Mexico, how the produced water can be treated for safe re-use, and what changes are needed to our state water quality standards to protect water resources and human health. If it is not safe for human health, we will not utilize produced water.
- ✔ Support cutting-edge research and piloting new water treatment technologies to position New Mexico as a leader in adaptive water management.
- ✔ Ensure that any lithium extraction from our water – which, particularly in the southern part of the state, is rich with critical minerals like lithium – is consistent with public health first, and provides benefits to New Mexicans.
- ✔ Collaborate with all levels of government to fund and implement innovative water solutions.
- ✔ Impose enhanced monitoring systems, stricter penalties for contamination, and aggressive prosecution of those who threaten our water supply. Clean water is not a luxury—it's a basic right that the Bregman Administration will defend with the full force of law.

KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM WILDFIRES

Wildfires are no longer rare events. New Mexico now burns nearly twice the acreage in wildfires as it did a generation ago – driven by hotter temperatures, reduced rainfall, and longer fire seasons. The dry landscape turns manageable blazes into megafires. In 2022, the over-341,000 acre Hermits Peak–Calf Canyon Fire cost \$132 million just to suppress it, while destroying more than 900 buildings, homes, and other structures. This June, the Buck and Trout fires scorched over 80,000 acres and forced the evacuation of 2,000 homes. After the flames pass, barren slopes turn monsoon rains into flash floods and debris flows that wash out roads, threaten downstream towns, and foul the drinking-water intakes supplying Albuquerque and Santa Fe. As Governor, I will protect homes and watersheds from wildfires and reduce risk before disaster strikes, while creating good local jobs. In addition to working to address climate change,

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Launch a Wildfire Resilience Corps and workforce pipeline. I'll put New Mexicans to work reducing fire risk around communities while building long-term careers. This means training and deploying crews to clear brush near homes, thin small trees, and create safe buffers around homes, schools, and communities in vulnerable areas. At the same time, I'll partner with community colleges, Tribal colleges, unions, and other community leaders to train students in chainsaw skills, heavy equipment operation, and cultural burning practices and create pathways into steady jobs in forestry, land management, and fire response.

KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM WILDFIRES

- ✓ Help families fire-proof their homes and quickly recover.

Protect Homes Before Disaster. I'll help families make their homes more fire-resistant by funding safer roofs, ember-resistant vents, and defensible space landscaping — backed up by home-visiting teams that provide free assessments and practical to-do lists. New Mexico has already created wildfire grant programs through local governments, tribes, nonprofits, or conservation districts, but not all families can access them today. I'll ensure those grants are reaching low-income families and add targeted state tax credits so middle-class families can afford immediate upgrades. We'll also adopt proven wildfire building standards in high-risk zones, so new homes and major remodels are built with fire-safe materials, with grants and credits available so families aren't left to shoulder the costs alone. And we'll require insurers to give premium discounts when families make these improvements. These efforts follow successful models in states like California, Colorado, and Washington State.



Respond faster and smarter. I'll modernize how New Mexico warns families and fights fires. We'll expand emergency alerts so all families get real-time warnings by text, call, and app, no matter where they live or what language they speak. Today, most counties rely on separate opt-in systems — I'll create a single statewide alert system that covers everyone automatically. I'll also pilot fire-detection camera networks, like those used in California and Colorado, to spot fires early before they spread. And, because many of our communities rely on volunteer fire departments, I'll increase state support so they have the trucks, water tanks, and gear they need to respond quickly.



KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM WILDFIRES

- ✓ **Help families recover quickly. Right now, families often face months of red tape after a fire, juggling FEMA forms, insurance claims, and rebuilding permits on their own. I'll create a one-stop Fire Recovery Navigator so families only need one application to get help, modeled after recovery programs in Boulder County and Oregon. I'll also make sure New Mexicans whose homes are destroyed can get temporary property tax relief and permit-fee waivers while they rebuild, as other states already do. I'll strengthen New Mexico's disaster fund so families can get bridge help immediately, without waiting on the federal government. Finally, I'll establish a permanent New Mexico Fire & Flood Trust Fund so families can get bridge help immediately, without waiting on the federal government — covering both rebuilding costs and the flooding and debris flows that often follow wildfires.**

KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM WILDFIRES

- ✓ **Prepare for floods after fires. After wildfires, rainstorms can send mud and debris into roads and waterways. I will work with counties, acequias, and emergency managers to build debris basins, improve drainage channels, and install warning systems. Through the Fire & Flood Trust Fund, I'll work with counties, acequias, and emergency managers to build debris basins, improve drainage channels, and install warning systems. We'll pre-approve simple designs so repairs can start immediately instead of waiting months. Finally, I will collaborate with FEMA and DHSEM to speed up storm damage mitigation and launch a post-wildfire regional program to address future cascading storm effects.**

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND THE OUTDOOR ECONOMY

New Mexico's wildlife is central to our culture and economy. We are the fourth most biodiverse state with more 4,500 animal and plant species, including the pronghorn and bighorn sheep, Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and the endangered Mexican gray wolf. Hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching generate billions of dollars and support thousands of jobs, from gas stations and motels to outfitters and guides.

But development and highways cut off animal migration routes, putting rural communities at risk of losing the very wildlife that sustains them. Wildlife-vehicle collisions also cost families money and cause injuries, costing thousands to tens of thousands of dollars per incident.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Build safe wildlife crossings and road fixes.** In 2023, nearly 2,000 car crashes involving animals – mostly deer, elk, and cattle – happened across New Mexico, costing thousands to tens of thousands of dollars per crash. I will partner with local contractors and small businesses to construct overpasses and underpasses at dangerous stretches of highway and add fencing that guides animals toward them. On existing roads, I'll add simple tunnels and safe exit paths so animals can cross or leave the roadway without getting stuck. These projects will save lives, lower insurance costs, make driving safer, and protect wildlife. States like Colorado, Utah, and Oregon are already using crossings to cut wildlife-vehicle collisions by over 90% with wildlife like deer, elk, pronghorn, bears, and bobcats.

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND THE OUTDOOR ECONOMY

✔ **Protect open spaces so herds stay strong. When elk, deer, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep can move freely to find food, water, and shelter, herds stay stronger, leading to longer hunting seasons, better wildlife viewing, and steadier income for outfitters, motels, restaurants, and small-town shops. I will help wildlife move as they need by keeping critical corridors open – such as land between mountains, rivers, or grazing grounds – by using voluntary conservation agreements with landowners, smart zoning rules, and targeted land purchases.**

✔ **Work smart by creating local jobs, listening to stakeholders, and using the best science. I'll design projects so that small construction and engineering firms in New Mexico can bid and hire locally. That keeps money in our communities and creates steady jobs. I'll base our work on science – state biologists have already mapped collision hotspots and priority linkages for wildlife – and gather robust input including from local communities, Tribal partners, business leaders, and labor groups. And, I'll work to utilize federal funds and other existing resources so every dollar goes further. For example, the federal government is providing wildlife funding for states through 2026 – I will work with them to extend that so New Mexico can benefit.**

PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

I'm a prosecutor, and I take public safety seriously. My Administration will treat environmental violations with the same seriousness as other public safety threats.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Establish a specialized environmental crime unit within state law enforcement, boosting the current work of the New Mexico Environment Department and ensuring rapid response to illegal dumping, water contamination, and air quality violations. This unit will work closely with community organizations to identify threats and hold bad actors accountable.
- ✓ Deploy enhanced investigative resources and pursue maximum penalties against polluters who endanger our families.

Protecting New Mexico's land, water, and wildlife is about more than conservation. It is about clean and affordable water for families, safer neighborhoods and roads, reliable jobs in every region, and a better future for our kids.

This plan sets clear goals, lists practical steps, and commits to progress that people can see. Together, we will make New Mexico the best place in America to live, raise a family, and build a future. We will protect what makes our state home and pass it on, stronger and healthier, to the next generation.

POWERING NEW MEXICO'S FUTURE

Sam Bregman's Energy Solutions for New Mexico

BREGMAN PLAN FOR NEW MEXICO'S ENERGY FUTURE

New Mexico is at an energy crossroads. Families face increasing utility bills, our outdated grid struggles to deliver reliable power, and too many communities are left behind even as the state exports vast amounts of energy. Oil and gas revenues have long funded schools and health care, but they also leave us vulnerable to boom-and-bust cycles and pollution that threatens our clean air and water, land, and health – and the foundations of our economy. Meanwhile, climate change is already drying our rivers, worsening wildfires, and making summers more dangerous. At the same time, New Mexico's clean energy sources remain underdeveloped, meaning we are missing out on jobs and investment that could benefit families and grow our economy.

I believe New Mexico can do better and I will fight to make sure our resources work for our people. That means diversifying our energy sources to protect the revenues that fund education and child care today while investing in the clean energy and infrastructure that will power our future. It means holding polluters accountable, ensuring fairness for workers and communities, and seizing every opportunity to cut costs for families.

BREGMAN PLAN FOR NEW MEXICO'S ENERGY FUTURE

Above all, it means leadership that puts people first, solves problems instead of playing politics, balances competing concerns fairly, delivers results through innovation and pragmatism instead of ideology, and makes New Mexico the energy capital of the future.

As governor, I will:

✔ **Modernize the grid and transmission. Upgrade New Mexico's outdated grid and build the transmission lines we need so families have reliable power, lower bills, and our state can sell clean energy across the West.**

✔ **Make New Mexico the energy capital of the future. Expand solar, wind, geothermal, hydrogen, and clean-tech manufacturing to lower costs for families, create good-paying jobs, and attract billions in new investment.**

✔ **Make oil and gas work for New Mexico's future. While oil and gas still provide jobs and revenue today, I will hold the industry to modern standards, plugging orphan wells, cutting methane, strengthening oversight, and powering operations with cleaner energy – while using today's revenues to invest in the clean energy future.**

✔ **Lower costs for families and businesses. We'll cut monthly utility bills for households and small businesses by covering energy-saving upgrades, making solar affordable, and ensuring that New Mexicans – not out-of-state buyers – get the benefits of our clean power first.**

BREGMAN PLAN FOR NEW MEXICO'S ENERGY FUTURE

- ✓ **Invest in workers and communities:** We'll make sure the clean energy transition delivers good jobs, training, and new investments in rural, Tribal, and oil- and gas-dependent communities so that every part of New Mexico benefits.

- ✓ **Because of Donald Trump's reckless foreign policy and his illegal war with Iran, global oil prices have surged. That instability is driving up costs for families across the country, with gas prices already rising by as much as 60 to 80 cents per gallon. But for an energy-producing state like New Mexico, it also means the state could see up to \$1 billion in additional oil and gas revenue. Sam believes that when New Mexico's natural resources generate an unexpected windfall, the people of New Mexico should benefit directly. Right now, families across our state are being squeezed by the consequences of Trump's economy - rising grocery bills, higher gas prices, and skyrocketing medical costs. Too many hardworking New Mexicans are struggling just to stay afloat.**

That's why, as Governor, Sam will propose a New Mexico Energy Dividend direct payments of up to \$500 per family member for families earning less than \$200,000 per year, funded by this unexpected oil and gas windfall. This payment would help working families offset the rising costs they are facing as global instability drives up fuel prices and everyday expenses.

1 MODERNIZE THE GRID AND TRANSMISSION

Every New Mexican depends on reliable, affordable electricity to keep the lights on, power our homes, and run small businesses. But today, much of our power system is outdated. The grid – the web of power lines, poles, and substations that deliver electricity to every home – is straining as our population grows and more power-intensive businesses like AI data centers arrive. Meanwhile, there aren't enough long-distance transmission lines that carry electricity from big solar and wind farms to towns and cities. Without upgrading both the grid and transmission lines, New Mexicans will keep facing higher bills, more outages, and missed opportunities to grow our economy by selling our clean energy to other states or attracting businesses here. Fixing our outdated grid is a problem we can solve with practical steps, not political fights.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Fast-track 1,000 miles of new transmission lines. New Mexico has some of the strongest solar and wind resources in the country, but we lack the infrastructure to move that power where it's needed. In 2022, experts estimated that we needed at least 900 to 1,300 miles of new transmission lines just to unlock our renewable energy potential – an investment that would create thousands of jobs and more than \$1 billion in new economic activity. Without enough lines, projects stall, investors look elsewhere, and families lose out on the jobs, tax revenue, and affordable clean energy growth that should be built here at home. I will:**

1 MODERNIZE THE GRID AND TRANSMISSION

- ✔ **Put one team in charge. Big transmission projects shouldn't get lost in a maze of agencies. I'll appoint a Clean Energy Fast-Track Coordinator to cut through the red tape and keep projects like SunZia and Western Spirit on track.**

- ✔ **Set a "shot clock" on state permit reviews so projects get timely decisions. One of the biggest barriers to building in New Mexico is the slow and unpredictable permitting process. Projects can get stuck in red tape for years, driving up costs, scaring off investors, and keeping families from the jobs and revenue clean energy should deliver. That's why I'll apply a "shot clock" to permitting. Just like in basketball, the shot clock keeps the game moving – without it, play stalls. Regulators will still have full authority to approve, reject, or request changes to projects, but they'll have to make those decisions on time. This reform puts problem-solving over ideology: It provides procedural fairness to give everyone a chance to be heard, make timely decisions, and stick with them so we can move forward and deliver benefits for New Mexico families.**

1 MODERNIZE THE GRID AND TRANSMISSION

Put landowners First to build transmission faster. I will speed up transmission by making sure landowners and communities see real benefits and come out ahead. I will make sure families can choose steady yearly payments from developers or a one-time check. The state will provide property tax relief if values are affected, and developers will be required to contribute to community impact funds that reinvest back into schools, roads, and local services. As under the new federal standard, every landowner will also receive a clear Bill of Rights and know that developers must follow a code of conduct. To cut down on the door-to-door grind, New Mexico will also identify preferred transmission corridors up front and provide a fair, neutral process whereby landowners can negotiate together instead of one by one. And, I will create a Landowner Advocate to provide clear information, fair mediation, and trusted guidance. Families shouldn't have to choose between protecting their land and powering New Mexico's future. They should get both and getting it right will mean projects get built faster. For example, Texas's Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) approach designated clear corridors, engaged landowners early, and ensured fair compensation. As a result, Texas built over 2,300 miles of high-voltage lines in less than a decade – much faster than the 15 years typical for U.S. grid projects. That model shows that fairness and speed go hand-in-hand: When landowners trust the process to treat them fairly, projects move faster and everyone wins.

1 MODERNIZE THE GRID AND TRANSMISSION

Prevent blackouts and stabilize prices with grid upgrades. Families across New Mexico already face higher bills and frequent outages because our grid is outdated and overextended. As demand grows from electric vehicles, data centers, and new manufacturing, reliability will get worse without major upgrades. If we don't act now, households will keep paying more for less reliable service. I will:

Upgrade the grid without raising rate by creating a dedicated Grid Fund. Too many families, especially in rural and Tribal communities, face blackouts because of aging infrastructure, and new demands from data centers and advanced manufacturing will only make things worse. I'll create a fund to help rural co-ops and local utilities modernize aging lines and poles, while also investing in bigger substations and interconnection points across the state so that our grid can handle new growth. That way, families and small businesses get more reliable service today, and New Mexico is ready for the growth of tomorrow, all without hidden costs on household bills.

Store clean energy to lower bills. Too often, excess wind and solar power goes to waste. I'll require utilities to plan for large-scale battery storage so it actually gets built instead of pushed off, and I'll provide financial help so local utilities and communities can install it. That way, the clean power we generate during the day can be saved and used at night, keeping prices stable and preventing blackouts. California has already proven this works: During the September 2022 heat wave, batteries helped power over 3 million homes and prevent rolling blackouts.

1 MODERNIZE THE GRID AND TRANSMISSION

Hold utilities accountable for reliability. Families deserve to know how often the lights go out and what's being done to fix it. I'll require utilities to publish clear, easy-to-understand outage and reliability reports. And I'll appoint commissioners to the Public Regulation Commission who believe families shouldn't be asked to pay more when service is getting worse.

Turn energy exports into revenue for schools and jobs. Right now, too much of the power we generate in New Mexico can't be sold to other states. That means we miss out on billions in potential economic activity and tax revenue. With the right grid in place, we can sell our surplus clean energy across the West, lower costs at home, and use the proceeds to fund schools, roads, and jobs.

Negotiate long-term export agreements with Arizona, California, and Nevada so that New Mexico becomes a supplier of clean power across the West.

Dedicate a share of new transmission and renewable tax revenue to public schools and local governments, ensuring exports directly fund education and community needs.

Use surplus clean power as an incentive to attract manufacturers and data centers, pitching New Mexico as the state with the cheapest, cleanest, and most reliable electricity in the country.

2 MAKE NEW MEXICO THE ENERGY CAPITAL OF THE FUTURE – LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, CREATING JOBS, AND GROWING THE ECONOMY

New Mexico has some of the strongest solar, wind, and geothermal resources in the entire country. We already produce about half of our in-state electricity from clean energy sources: That’s real progress, showing that homegrown clean power can lower costs. But too much potential is being left on the table. Unless we keep expanding, families will face higher bills – one large utility already has rate hikes approved for 2025 and 2026 that will add about \$150 a year to the average household bill.

By building on our natural strengths, New Mexico can become the nation’s clean energy capital, lowering energy costs for families while attracting billions in private investment and creating good-paying jobs.

As governor, I will:

✓ Grow clean-tech manufacturing. Clean energy isn’t just about producing electricity – it’s also about building the equipment that makes it possible. Manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and transmission equipment can create thousands of high-wage, long-term jobs right here in New Mexico. Instead of importing these parts from overseas, we can make them ourselves, keeping billions of dollars in our economy and lowering energy costs over time. New Mexico is primed to do this with our world-class labs, skilled workforce, and abundant clean power that manufacturers want. I will:

2 MAKE NEW MEXICO THE ENERGY CAPITAL OF THE FUTURE – LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, CREATING JOBS, AND GROWING THE ECONOMY

✓ Prepare industrial sites to get to work quicker. We'll expand and strengthen the Site Readiness program, which does the behind-the-scenes work of preparing land for major employers – extending water, power, and roads; securing permits; and clearing legal hurdles. By creating industrial parks near transmission hubs, we cut costs for companies (who need cheap, reliable power) and ensure the projects deliver affordable energy and jobs back to New Mexicans.

✓ Target incentives to clean-tech jobs. Tools like the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) and the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) have worked to attract employers, but they aren't always focused on the industries we need most. I will direct these funds toward clean-tech manufacturing and expand them if needed – offering grants or tax credits tied directly to companies that hire New Mexicans at good wages and invest in long-term facilities. If companies don't deliver, they pay the money back.

✓ Build supply chains around anchor manufacturers. New Mexico already has leading companies like Array Technologies, which makes solar trackers, and Arcosa, which manufactures wind towers. I will work with them to attract suppliers to locate nearby – for example, steel fabricators, electronics manufacturers, or battery-pack assembly. Creating clusters makes it cheaper for companies to operate, strengthens the whole industry, and means better-paying jobs in construction, operations, and engineering.

MAKE NEW MEXICO THE ENERGY CAPITAL 2 OF THE FUTURE – LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, CREATING JOBS, AND GROWING THE ECONOMY

✓ Expand solar and wind power. Wind and solar account for about half of New Mexico's in-state electricity generation, and thanks to the Energy Transition Act our utilities are required to reach 50% renewables by 2030 and 100% carbon-free power by 2045. But many solar and wind projects are stalled because of financing, timing, and infrastructure gaps. When projects don't get built, families lose out on cheaper power and new jobs. I will:

✓ Expand state incentives for solar and wind development. The Trump Administration and DC Republicans have rolled back federal clean-energy tax credits, putting projects at risk. I will expand state economic development tools – like grants, refundable tax credits, or LEDA project agreements – so that projects still move forward. This keeps investment flowing and protects families from higher bills.

✓ Get sites shovel-ready. I will expand the state's Site Readiness program so that more land near existing transmission lines is pre-permitted and infrastructure-ready. That lowers costs for developers, shortens timelines, and delivers cheaper, more reliable power to families.

2 MAKE NEW MEXICO THE ENERGY CAPITAL OF THE FUTURE – LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, CREATING JOBS, AND GROWING THE ECONOMY

✔ **Streamline Permitting with a Fast Track Project Coordinator.** As with expanding our transmission capacity generally, solar and wind developers face a patchwork of approvals from multiple agencies, which drives up costs and delays projects. My new Clean Energy Fast-Track Coordinator will help speed this up, and I will apply a “shot clock” so regulators make decisions on time. Regulators will still have full authority to approve, reject, or require changes, but decisions will be made on schedule.

✔ **Require storage with new big projects.** It’s not just local utilities that need to develop battery storage capacity to support clean energy expansion: I will require large solar and wind farms supported by the state to include battery storage. This keeps prices stable by making clean power available in the evening when families need it most, instead of letting it go to waste during the day.

2 MAKE NEW MEXICO THE ENERGY CAPITAL OF THE FUTURE – LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, CREATING JOBS, AND GROWING THE ECONOMY

✓ Build on geothermal and hydrogen potential. New Mexico is sitting on some of the best untapped energy resources in the country. Our geology gives us strong geothermal potential, and our oil and gas expertise positions us to lead on hydrogen as well. With Sandia and Los Alamos labs, a skilled workforce, and proven energy know-how, New Mexico can be at the forefront of the next wave of clean energy innovation. Done right, these technologies will create good-paying jobs, bring new investment, and lower energy costs for families.

✓ Scale up geothermal pilots. New Mexico already has promising geothermal projects in development, including work with national labs and at universities. I will expand these efforts by funding new pilot projects, from electricity generation to direct heating, in areas with strong resources.

2 **MAKE NEW MEXICO THE ENERGY CAPITAL OF THE FUTURE – LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, CREATING JOBS, AND GROWING THE ECONOMY**

Develop clean hydrogen responsibly. Hydrogen can be produced from renewable power (“green hydrogen”) or from natural gas with carbon capture (“blue hydrogen”). Both are part of New Mexico’s future, and both are already being tested in early projects here. I will expand these efforts by supporting state–industry–lab partnerships to scale up pilots where they are cost-competitive and meet real needs, especially in hard-to-electrify sectors like trucking and manufacturing. Because water is limited in New Mexico, projects will also be required to use non-freshwater sources, such as recycled wastewater, produced water from oil and gas, or brackish groundwater and meet strict efficiency standards. With the right safeguards, hydrogen can help us test new technologies, create jobs, and attract investment without burdening families with higher bills.

Create an Innovation Energy Grant Fund. All communities across New Mexico should benefit from these new industries, not just a few. I will create a competitive grant program that Tribal Nations, local governments, and regional partnerships can use to pursue geothermal, hydrogen, or solar projects that meet their needs. Whether it’s a geothermal heating system for a school or a hydrogen fueling project along freight corridors, the state will back projects that deliver affordable energy and local jobs.

2 **MAKE NEW MEXICO THE ENERGY CAPITAL OF THE FUTURE – LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, CREATING JOBS, AND GROWING THE ECONOMY**


- ✓ **Study advanced nuclear with safeguards. New nuclear technologies could provide steady, carbon-free power and good-paying jobs, but they raise real concerns about safety and waste. I will convene a statewide task force of scientists, Tribal leaders, labor, and community voices to study these technologies, and set strict guardrails on siting, waste handling, and community consent before any project moves forward, learning from states that are already testing small modular reactors.**

MAKE OIL AND GAS WORK FOR NEW 3 MEXICO'S FUTURE-PRAGMATISM NOT IDEOLOGY

Oil and gas play a critical role in keeping energy reliable and affordable while we build the clean system of the future. They also provide nearly 40 percent of New Mexico's state budget for education, health care, and public safety – funding that families, schools, and hospitals rely on today. We must diversify and cannot remain this dependent on carbon sources forever – in fact, production is projected to decline sometime in the next decade. As outlined, I am committed to moving New Mexico into the clean energy future, while supporting responsible oil and gas development. Many companies do act responsibly and I will work to make sure that every company does by containing methane emissions, protecting air and water, and implementing clear, modern rules that allow them to operate efficiently. As Governor, I will make sure that the industry is well-regulated and work to make it cleaner every year, while using today's revenues to invest in innovation, diversify our economy, and prepare communities for the day when New Mexico's prosperity comes from many sources, not just one. Governing with pragmatism instead of ideology means balancing today's realities with tomorrow's goals.

3 MAKE OIL AND GAS WORK FOR NEW MEXICO'S FUTURE-PRAGMATISM NOT IDEOLOGY

As governor, I will:

 **Create jobs for oilfield workers through cleanup of orphan and inactive wells. New Mexico has thousands of abandoned or inactive wells that leak methane, threaten groundwater, and leave taxpayers holding the bag. Families pay the price in contaminated land and water while lawmakers raid the cleanup fund for other uses. At the same time, too many operators have been allowed to walk away from their responsibilities. Federal infrastructure dollars have already delivered \$25 million to New Mexico, enabling oilfield service crews to plug nearly 200 orphan wells, and protecting land, water, and jobs. That's progress, but with more than 1,700 orphan wells statewide, it's only a start. I will:**

MAKE OIL AND GAS WORK FOR NEW MEXICO'S FUTURE-PRAGMATISM NOT IDEOLOGY

- ✓ Secure more funding to clean up wells. I'll protect the State Reclamation Fund – nearly \$70 million collected from oil and gas companies – by law so it can only be used to plug and clean up abandoned wells, not raided for other projects. I'll also raise bonding requirements, in a careful, structured manner so companies can put down enough money up front to cover cleanup if or when their wells run dry, instead of leaving taxpayers with the bill. And I'll make sure New Mexico secures a fair share of the hundreds of millions still available in federal cleanup grants, so families and communities get the clean water, safe land, and jobs they deserve.
- ✓ Turn cleanup into jobs for oilfield workers. I will build on the federal program that has already created reclamation work in New Mexico by launching a statewide jobs program that hires laid-off or underemployed oil and gas workers to plug wells and restore land. This keeps skilled workers employed, protects water, and provides steady paychecks close to home.
- ✓ Put old wells to new use. Many inactive wells can be safely repurposed – for example, turning them into geothermal energy wells that produce clean power, or using them to store captured carbon. I'll direct state agencies and researchers to pursue these options, so we don't just clean up the past, but also create new energy opportunities for the future.

3 MAKE OIL AND GAS WORK FOR NEW MEXICO'S FUTURE-PRAGMATISM NOT IDEOLOGY

- Hold polluters accountable. Every New Mexican deserves clean air and safe water. But too often, oil and gas operations that cut corners put both at risk. Methane leaks from wells and pipelines don't just waste a resource that should fund our schools – they also release other toxic pollutants that trigger asthma and harm heart and lung health. And when bad operators illegally dump drilling waste or chemicals, they can contaminate soil, poison groundwater, and leave nearby families and farmers bearing the cost. Most producers follow the rules, but enforcement is too weak against those who don't, allowing polluters to treat penalties as just another cost of doing business. Under my leadership, New Mexico will:**
- ✓ Lead the nation in methane enforcement. I will use proven tools like aerial surveys, infrared cameras, and satellite detection so that methane leaks are identified quickly, and the results are made public.**
 - ✓ Impose real penalties on bad actors. I will raise fines so that it always costs more to break the law than to follow it, ending the practice of polluters treating penalties as just another business expense.**

3 MAKE OIL AND GAS WORK FOR NEW MEXICO'S FUTURE-PRAGMATISM NOT IDEOLOGY

✔ **Work hand in hand with communities. I will partner with residents, Tribes, and frontline communities to spot problems early, make enforcement transparent, and hold repeat offenders accountable.**

✔ **Modernize oil and gas oversight with more staff and smarter processes. Oil and gas oversight in New Mexico is stretched too thin, with both state regulators and the Bureau of Land Management facing staff shortages and backlogs. Without enough staff, polluters can get by unchecked, while responsible operators get stuck in delays and confusing paperwork. I will:**

✔ **Hire and train more regulators. I will add more permit reviewers and inspectors, paid for with industry fees, so that enforcement is tough, fair, and consistent.**

✔ **Streamline reviews without weakening standards. For example, this can include pre-application screening, standardized forms, and checklists to cut down on errors, as well as clear service standards so that reviews are predictable and transparent to the public.**

✔ **Support the Bureau of Land Management on federal lands. I will expand cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which issues drilling permits and oversees oil and gas development on federal land, so that state regulators can help BLM identify problems early, share data, and avoid duplication while keeping federal reviews thorough and lawful.**

MAKE OIL AND GAS WORK FOR NEW

3 MEXICO'S FUTURE-PRAGMATISM NOT IDEOLOGY

✔ **Create a Balanced Advisory Forum. I will bring local communities, Tribes, environmental advocates, industry, and other key stakeholders together to recommend improvements, while final authority will always rest with the state on state and private lands, and with BLM on federal lands.**

✔ **Modernize oil and gas operations with clean power. Much of New Mexico's oil and gas industry still runs on diesel generators that pollute the air, create noise, and waste fuel. By connecting operations to the electrical grid and using clean power, we can cut emissions, improve local air quality, and lower costs for producers. I will:**

✔ **Spur incentives to create sustainable operations. I will build on existing incentives to encourage operators to decarbonize and retrofit equipment to use renewable energy and to build and/or employ on site solar and battery energy**

✔ **Bring reliable power to energy communities. I will work with utilities and the Public Regulation Commission to extend power lines in oil- and gas-producing regions so that families, schools, and small businesses get more reliable service – and operators connect to the grid instead of running dirty diesel generators. Oil companies will pay for their hookups, while communities benefit from stronger local infrastructure and cleaner air.**

MAKE OIL AND GAS WORK FOR NEW 3 MEXICO'S FUTURE-PRAGMATISM NOT IDEOLOGY

Remove barriers to clean power. I will direct the Public Regulation Commission to modernize line-extension tariffs so that oil companies still cover the full cost of connecting but can spread payments out over time and share costs when multiple operators use the same line. This removes financial barriers that keep sites on diesel, while ensuring that families aren't stuck with the bill and communities benefit from cleaner air and more reliable power.

Use today's revenues to power tomorrow's clean energy. Oil and gas revenues will not last at today's levels forever. I will direct a portion of current revenues into clean energy projects and workforce development, so that New Mexico uses today's boom to build the industries of the future.

4 LOWER COSTS FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES

Energy prices in New Mexico are rising, and many households – especially in rural and Tribal communities – face high energy burdens because homes are older, inefficient, or costly to heat and cool. Small businesses encounter the same pressures, with energy costs eating into their margins and outages disrupting operations. Expanding clean energy and strengthening our grid – as outlined above – will help over time. But we also need policies that make sure that those savings show up on bills today.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Cut home energy bills. Too many homes rely on outdated appliances or poor insulation, driving up monthly bills. I will:**
 - ✓ **Cover the cost of insulation, air sealing, and efficient appliances by expanding rebate and weatherization programs so that households can cut bills immediately without a large upfront expense they can't afford to take on.**
 - ✓ **Let families pay for solar and batteries over time on their utility bills by creating a statewide on-bill financing program. Utilities would cover the upfront cost of installing solar panels or home batteries, and families would repay the cost in small monthly amounts added to their bill. Because the savings from lower energy use offset much of the payment, households see lower bills right away without needing thousands of dollars upfront.**
 - ✓ **Guarantee that New Mexicans get a fair share of affordable renewable power by requiring regulators to tie new transmission and export agreements to mandates that utilities reserve cheaper in-state rates first.**

4 LOWER COSTS FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES

- ✓ **Cut energy bills for small businesses. Energy is one of the biggest costs small businesses face, and outages in rural areas make it even harder. I will:**
- ✓ **Provide grants and tax credits for efficient equipment like lighting, HVAC, and refrigeration, funded through state economic development programs so that businesses can cut monthly bills.**
- ✓ **Give businesses affordable financing for rooftop solar and storage by expanding the state's loan programs to include clean energy, helping small businesses lock in predictable, lower energy costs.**
- ✓ **Build shared solar and battery projects with rural electric co-ops by directing state funds and federal grants to support community-scale installations to which local businesses can subscribe.**
- ✓ **Help big employers upgrade old equipment. Provide state incentives so manufacturers and other large employers replace wasteful pumps, motors, and refrigeration systems with modern equipment, lowering their bills and reducing emissions while keeping jobs in New Mexico.**

5 INVEST IN WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES

Diversifying our energy mix will only succeed if it lifts up New Mexicans in every part of the state. That means making sure the jobs created are good jobs that go to local workers, that rural and Tribal communities share in the benefits, and that regions long dependent on oil and gas are supported, not abandoned – because leadership is about bringing people together and finding solutions that work for all communities.

As governor, I will:

✓ Require local Hiring and community benefits. Too often, big projects bring in outside contractors and leave little behind once construction ends. Communities see the disruption but not the benefits. I will provide financial incentives for large energy and transmission projects to sign Project Labor Agreements and Community Benefit Agreements that can guarantee good jobs, local hiring, investments in roads, schools, or other priorities.

✓ Expand apprenticeships and training. New jobs in clean energy and advanced manufacturing require skills that too many New Mexicans don't yet have. Without training, companies will look out-of-state to fill positions. I will partner with employers, labor unions, community colleges, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to expand training pipelines that lead to a job, including apprenticeships in the building trades, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing so that young people can earn while they learn. I will also provide stipends and childcare support so working parents can participate in retraining programs.

5 INVEST IN WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES

✓ Support rural and Tribal leadership in energy projects. Rural and Tribal communities often see energy projects built on their land but don't see the benefits. Without direct support, they risk being left behind. I will provide grants and technical assistance for tribal and rural communities to plan and own their own energy projects. I will also ensure that state permitting processes respect Tribal sovereignty and give communities a seat at the table from the start.

✓ Help oil- and gas-dependent regions to diversify. Counties that rely on oil and gas revenue face risks over time as production fluctuates and eventually declines. I will partner with local leaders to attract new industries with high-paying jobs, from clean energy manufacturing to tourism and tech, so that these regions have multiple sources of growth. State assistance can include financial incentives and community investments, including in roads, bridges, and more to make sure rural and oil-producing counties can compete for new employers.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Sam Bregman's Comprehensive Plan for Veterans

“A nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but also by the men and women it honors. The men and women it remembers.”

President, John F. Kennedy

It has been recorded that from the beginning of our country, over 40 million soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen have participated in our countries wars - and, of that number, 23 million are living and more than one million have died in combat. We need to always remember them.

Throughout the state of New Mexico, there are over 175,000 veterans that share a unique and rich military legacy of honor and service to our nation that dates back several generations.

It is our duty as New Mexicans, and it will be my duty as governor, to honor the service and sacrifice of every veteran in our State.

As governor, I will fight to ensure that veterans and their family members can successfully transition back to civilian life upon their discharge from military service with dignity and purpose.

THE VETERANS WEB

I propose a comprehensive veteran service initiative to empower our veterans and their families through four critical integrated policy areas that I call the Veterans WEB:

**Wellness Support,
Educational advancement,
Employment and career development and
Business entrepreneurial opportunities.**

As governor, I will create this Veterans WEB to assist and support veterans, military members, and their families. This effort will focus on reintegration, self-sustainability and long-term support for veterans. This veteran empowerment initiative will be a transformative force for our nation's heroes, delivering the tools they need to thrive after military service and into their advanced years. This integrated and innovative program will be a sustainable beacon of support, purpose, and excellence for our veteran community.

WELLNESS

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Support and expand mental health care, peer support groups and counseling & treatment for veterans, including those who are homeless.**
- ✓ Fund and promote holistic and other therapies for PTSD including the Angel Fire Wellness Center.**

THE VETERANS WEB

Develop programs to help “Vets Left behind”—those who were less than honorably discharged-- so that they don’t fall through the system, working to prevent suicide, homelessness, and incarceration.

Promote and fund numerous housing and homeless initiatives that give will our veterans with direct housing assistance.

Invest in long term services to ensure that New Mexico’s aging veterans can stay at home if possible, with relatives or other non-institutional settings. To meet rising demand for long-term services and supports (LTSS), I will invest in the Direct Care Workforce to help our aging and disabled veterans:

We must recruit, train, and retain paid in home and nursing home caregivers. Our Seniors’ future depends on this. As I outlined in other policy plans.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Fund free CNA and DSP training programs and partner with our schools to provide training for this service work.
- ✓ Create career ladders and credential program that can give workers a long-time career in direct care.
- ✓ Provide transportation, childcare, and mental health counseling to support these critical services.
- ✓ Launch public campaigns to elevate caregiving as a profession.

THE VETERANS WEB

- ✓ **Support self-directed care models and tech-enabled home care. We must employ technology to enable as much home care as possible.**
- ✓ **Provide tax credits to Community Care providers of all levels of care to include specialty care for providing care to Veterans... This will provide an incentive for community care providers to increase the number of veterans serve.**
- ✓ **Provide tax incentives, loan repayment programs and other benefits for Community Care providers; this would increase community care for veterans bringing in more doctors, nurses and health care staff.**

EDUCATION

Too many veterans leave the military unaware of the benefits and opportunities that are available to them. We can help the vets expand their education, and transition into the workforce and society by supporting them, educating them on their benefits, and on special veterans' services. This means direct and aggressive outreach and education to veterans to help them navigate the complex array of benefits and services.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Develop a “One Stop Shop” app—a simple phone app--that every veteran can use to access state services, support offices, and benefits.
- ✓ Direct my Public Education Department to develop veteran specific programs including:

College readiness workshops
Vocational training
Technology and digital skills boot-camps.

EMPLOYMENT

In New Mexico, there are more than 162,000 small businesses, which make up more than 95% of all NM businesses and employ over 331,000 individuals - 55% of the state's private workforce. Approximately 16,000 (10%) of these New Mexico small businesses are veteran owned. We need to support these businesses and support all veterans who are looking to work.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Offer veterans training including resume building & interview coaching, LinkedIn profile building and networking.
- ✔ Hold career fairs with veteran friendly employers and promote the Heroes hiring Heroes" program to encourage and support vet-owned businesses hiring fellow veterans and members of military families.
- ✔ Recognize military certifications for commercial drivers, medics, and other trained military personnel to streamline their getting similar jobs in private sector.
- ✔ Expand apprenticeships and certification programs for veterans to train them for the careers of the future.

BUSINESS

The final piece of my WEB initiative will be to promote and support veteran-owned businesses.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Provide “Boots to Business” training for veterans, military members, and spouses. This will include mentorship for vet entrepreneurs, and business planning and financial literacy training.
- ✓ Improve access to capital for vet owned business.
- ✓ Establish a veteran business incubator for veteran owned startups.
- ✓ Support and promote the NM Veteran Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ Promote a series of Veterans’ Business Tax benefits including:

- **Waiving GRT for Vet owned businesses.**
- **Offering tax credits to those who invest in vet owned businesses.**
- **Offering tax credits for employers who employ NM Guard member when they are activated.**
- **Expanding incentives/credits for businesses that hire veterans.**

BUSINESS

- ✔ **Develop state procurement efforts/incentives to help vet owned businesses do business with Sate Government.**

- ✔ **Support and partner with the SBA New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) and New Mexico Small Business Development Center (NMSBDC), which offer support for veteran entrepreneurs.**


- ✔ **Expand outreach and education through our veteran's service offices.**


MAKING THE WEB WORK

In order to implement my WEB policies in an effective and comprehensive matter, As governor, I will: stress coordination and collaboration, and work to maximize the benefits available to veterans.

Cabinet Level Veterans Service Task Force and Community Partnerships

As governor, I will:

-  **Create an integrated multi-agency task force comprised of several of my Cabinet Secretaries –including Health, Aging and Long-Term Services, Economic Development, Education, and others to work with the NM Dept of Veteran Services Cabinet Secretary and agency staff to give our veterans and their families the opportunities and services they have earned.**

-  **Direct this task force to develop and strengthen existing partnerships with the VA, Universities and local city governments and businesses to implement the Veteran’s WEB agenda.**

LEVERAGE VA INVESTMENTS

NM Veterans receive \$2.2 Billion in annual federal expenditure for compensation & pensions, education and training, medical care, and other VA benefits, and they spend those dollars in their communities, supporting their families and our economy. However, only 35% of the Vet population are receiving their earned benefits. 65% of our veterans need to file for the state and federal benefits that they have earned. As Governor, I will work to educate and assist these vets to file for the federal VA and state benefits. This will help these vets and their families while bringing millions of federal funds to NM to help support and stimulate our economy. Furthermore, I will work to partner with the VA to leverage even more direct funding.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Invest in Community Base Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) and partner with VA to build assisted living care facilities for our aging veteran population (NM vet pop over age of 60+ 95,196). With the federal VA providing 65% of this funding, NM can leverage this money to serve even more of our veterans.
- ✔ Expand outreach and education through our veteran's service officers.
- ✔ Support the establishment of the Code Talker Museum.

LEVERAGE VA INVESTMENTS

- ✔ Support the establishment of a Veteran's Museum Education Center and recognize our Medal of Honor recipients and other NM heroes.
- ✔ Support the \$100 Million National VA Cemetery scheduled to be built on Albuquerque's West Side with the closure of the National Vet Cemetery in Santa Fe by 2030.

AGING WITH DIGNITY

Sam Bregman's Plan For Older New Mexicans

A COMMITMENT TO NEW MEXICO'S OLDER ADULTS

- **New Mexico is home to over 404,000 residents aged 65 and older, representing nearly one in five citizens.**
- **With a growing senior population—diverse in ethnicity, experience, and need—I am committed to building a state where aging is met with dignity, security, and opportunity. I will fight to will ensure that New Mexico's older adults are not left behind.**
- **I have a deep respect for the contributions of our seniors and we need a bold commitment to secure their future. With smart investments, compassionate reforms, and community-driven solutions, New Mexico can become a national model for aging with dignity and supporting family caregivers.**

1 **STRENGTHEN MEDICAID & HEALTH CARE ACCESS**

New Mexico has one of the highest Medicaid reliance rates in the nation.

Over 170,000 residents age 50+ depend on Medicaid for health care

90,000 Medicare enrollees use Medicaid to pay premiums and coinsurance.

7,000 seniors rely on it for nursing home care

In the face of the steep cuts to Medicaid passed by the GOP and signed into law by Donald Trump,

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Protect Medicaid from federal cuts by leveraging New Mexico state reserves.**
- ✓ Streamline re-enrollment to reduce loss of coverage caused by the disastrous Trump/GOP cuts.**
- ✓ Support bridge coverage programs and community health partnerships to ensure folks who do lose coverage can retain access to health care.**

See my health care plan for details on these and other ways I will protect Medicaid.

2 **SUPPORT FAMILY CAREGIVERS WITH TAX RELIEF**

Family caregivers provide over \$600 billion in unpaid labor annually in the US, often at great personal cost.

Average out-of-pocket expenses: \$7,200/year
4 in 10 caregivers spend 20+ hours/week
6 in 10 incur \$1,000+ in annual caregiving costs

As governor, I will:

✓ **Create a state tax credit for family caregivers to help cover expenses like home modifications, transportation, and medical supplies. I will include caregivers who don't live with or claim the person as a dependent but work to support and assist another New Mexican. Other state like Oklahoma have made this work and we can do it here.**

3 **EXPAND HOME & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**

While Family caregivers need help and support, we must invest in long term services to ensure that New Mexico's seniors can age at home, with relatives or other non-institutional settings. To meet rising demand for long-term services and supports (LTSS),

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Invest in the Direct Care Workforce.**
- ✔ **Support recruitment, training, and retention of paid in-home and nursing home caregivers. Our seniors' future depends on this.**
- ✔ **Fund free CNA and DSP training programs and partner with our schools to provide training for this service work.**
- ✔ **Create career ladders and credential program that can give workers a long-time career in direct care.**
- ✔ **Provide transportation, childcare, and mental health counseling to support these critical services.**
- ✔ **Launch public campaigns to elevate caregiving as a profession.**
- ✔ **Support self-directed care models and tech-enabled home care. We must employ technology to enable as much home care as possible.**

4 PREVENT FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION & CYBERCRIME

In 2023, older adults lost \$62 billion nationally to scams. New Mexico seniors lost \$45.1 million, with rising threats from AI-driven fraud, crypto scams, and deepfakes. Criminals are getting smarter, and they are preying most on older Americans.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Require fraud notices in gift card displays and increase penalties for gift card theft.
- ✓ Implement the reforms listed below and take other actions to fight the financial predators who are scamming older Americans.
- ✓ Prohibit deceptive predatory long-term real estate listing agreements that lock people into paying fees and charges to unscrupulous agents.
- ✓ Regulate crypto ATMs and require licensing transparency so people are not paying huge fees or falling victim to scams or fraud.
- ✓ Close loopholes in “report and hold” laws for suspicious financial transactions so that banks may responsibly put holds on a scam victim’s money –before they pay a scammer.
- ✓ Require fraud notices in gift card displays and increase penalties for gift card theft.

5 INCREASE FUNDING FOR AGING & LONG-TERM SERVICES

- ✓ **Boost funding for non-Medicaid in-home services through Area Agencies on Aging.**
- ✓ **Expand home-delivered meals, transportation, and adult day services.**
- ✓ **Strengthen efforts to detect abuse, neglect, and isolation at New Mexico nursing homes.**
- ✓ **Expand adult day services to provide community day care and support for older adults who depend on working caregivers.**

6 LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

With many seniors living on fixed incomes, rising drug costs threaten their health and financial stability.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB), which will review high-cost medications and set upper payment limits and increase transparency around pricing and rebates. There is already legislation in this area and such boards have worked in other states. Let's get it done here in New Mexico .**

7 **EXPAND AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE HOUSING**

Most homes in New Mexico are not designed for aging in place.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Incentivize accessibility in new construction and renovations offering more housing options for older and disabled adults.**
- ✔ **Offer tax breaks for home modifications (e.g., zero-step entrances, wide doorways).**
- ✔ **Support Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as housing options for seniors and caregivers.**
- ✔ **Reform zoning laws to encourage ADU development and multi-generational housing.**
- ✔ **Please see my housing plan for details on these and other ideas to expand affordable, accessible housing.**

8 CONTINUE GUARDIANSHIP REFORM

As people age and become infirm, older adults often turn decision-making authority on certain matters to guardians. As an Attorney, I recognize the need for such arrangements but will always protect and individual's rights.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Support formalizing supported decision-making agreements as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship, empowering older adults to retain autonomy while receiving needed support.

HONORING SOVEREIGNTY, BUILDING FUTURES

Sam Bregman's Policy for New Mexico's Tribal Nations

New Mexico's 23 Indian Tribes and Pueblos represent a broad diversity of histories, languages, and cultures. As governor, I will work continue collaborating closely with Indigenous stakeholders - just as I have done in my service as District Attorney. I will always respect and honor tribal sovereignty. Moreover, I recognize the disparities – in health care, employment, education, and child welfare - that exist between tribal communities and the rest of the state. I pledge to work hard to address and reduce these disparities, so that every Native American family has access to health care, a well paying job, quality education, and affordable quality housing.

Health care for Native Americans is a common interest for Tribes in aggregate and individual Native Americans.

Native Americans in New Mexico face significant wide-ranging health challenges - with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and chronic liver disease as the ailments most frequently impacting Indigenous in-state populations. Native Americans also have alarming rates for behavioral health struggles and suicide. Suicide is a major public health issue and the second-leading cause of death for young Native Americans, with high rates linked to historical trauma and substance misuse. To address these health disparities, Native Americans need access to health insurance whether it is provided publicly or from employers.

123,663 Native Americans in New Mexico were enrolled in Medicaid in July 2025, including over 46,000 children. To support Native American health, we must protect Medicaid. Most depend on a network of Indian Health Services (IHS) hospitals, which are threatened by proposed Medicaid cuts.

As governor, I will:

✔ Work to ensure that IHS continues to get maximum health care reimbursement for Medicaid. I will also continue to provide the options of Fee For Service (FFS) and Managed Care Options (MCO) for Native American Medicaid enrollees, allowing individual Native Americans to decide for themselves and their families what Medicaid program they want to apply for.

✔ Fight to provide direct state government support to the medical infrastructure on which so many rely. I will target for state support those hospitals and clinics that serve Native Americans. I will lobby hard for federal support of our IHS medical facilities, protect Medicaid funding, and advocate for investments in our Tribal medical infrastructure to provide access to quality health care for our Tribal members.

SUPPORTING NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILIES

Many Native American families reside off reservation in cities, towns, and rural parts of New Mexico. We must ensure that we deliver support to every Native American family who needs it, not just those who live on Tribal lands.

With federal cuts to SNAP (Food Stamps), New Mexicans all over the state may go hungry—and Native American families will be especially hard hit. Reservations face food deserts especially on the Navajo Nation where fresh food can be limited and expensive.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ Create a state-level food assistance fund targeted at Pueblos, Apache tribes, and the Navajo Nation for emergency food distribution when federal aid falls short.**
- ✔ Fight to supplement FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) with fresh produce vouchers or additional funding for healthier food options.**
- ✔ Expand school & child nutrition programs.**
- ✔ Invest state dollars to guarantee universal free school meals for all Native children, including those attending Head Start programs on tribal lands.**
- ✔ Support summer meal programs and mobile meal delivery in remote communities.**

SUPPORTING NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILIES

✓ Invest in infrastructure.

✓ Direct capital outlay funds to build, expand, and improve Tribal grocery stores, food hubs, refrigeration facilities, and food distribution centers.

✓ Expand broadband and road funding so Tribal members can order groceries online and receive deliveries.

Support the New Mexico Indian Family Protection Act (IFPA) and its protections for Indigenous children who are under the state's custody. The Act requires that Tribes be notified early when a child of theirs is under state custody. I support the Tribes' authority to remove salient cases to Tribal court jurisdiction and include culturally sensitive case plans that recognize and respect the child's culture and history. A child's safety is always paramount but, in the case of a child's removal from a home, I support the IFPA's requirement that the child's family be given first preference for placement with other Tribal households scaled as a secondary recourse, a critical measure that maintains connection for Indigenous youth contending with destabilized circumstances to their respective Tribal communities.

MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATION

- Albuquerque and Gallup have some of the highest rates of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) cases within the United States. As governor, I will expand and support Tribal, state, and local police coordination, which is critical to solving these cases and giving families the help they need.
- ✓ Expand and collaborate directly with joint task forces that are working on these cases.
 - ✓ Support increased data-gathering capacity across law enforcement agencies to increase accountability and tracking of the frequency, type, and location of various crimes.
 - ✓ Develop law enforcement agreements between jurisdictions that enhance cooperation and hold agencies accountable for results.
 - ✓ Make support services, shelters, and housing available for survivors and their families as necessary.
 - ✓ Support Tribal justice systems with resources, training, and technical support.

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION

There are more than 33,000 Native American students in the state. While many flourish, there are achievement disparities that we must directly address. Native American graduation rates and reading achievement scores in particular lag behind those of their peers.

As governor, I will:

- ✔ **Expand extended learning time (ELT) programs; after-school and summer enrichment; community school grants; and equitable instructional materials.**
- ✔ **Provide targeted and comprehensive support for struggling schools as well as teen pregnancy support.**

Work aggressively to meet the direction of the

- ✔ **Yazzie/Martinez court order to provide programs and services necessary to make students college or career ready as well as build a system which ensures that state funds are spent efficiently to fulfill student needs.**

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION

Continue to invest in the goals of the Indian Education Act to guide school districts and Tribal nations in ensuring that resources are allocated to implement and develop culturally relevant curriculum and programs. I will support the establishment of an Indian Education Advisory Council and strive to guarantee that school districts and charter schools are engaging in Tribal consultation. I will also seek funding to implement a comprehensive plan to increase tribal teachers and school leaders.

As Governor, I will direct my Early Childhood Education & Care Department to honor all Intergovernmental Agreements with Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, or Tribal organizations to plan, conduct, administer, and reimburse early childhood education and care programs. I will collaborate with Tribal communities so early childhood education and care continue to expand and flourish under my administration.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ Fund capital outlay projects for early childhood programs (i.e. buildings, playground equipment, buses, kitchens, etc.).**
- ✓ Invest in professionals, teachers, and support staff by providing competitive pay and benefits.**
- ✓ Assure safe classrooms for all Native children by requiring and funding background checks for staff, teachers, and others involved in these vital Tribal programs.**

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION

- ✔ **Support Tribal colleges and Native American students by protecting and securing funding for and access to the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship Program.**
- ✔ **Support Tribal colleges in their efforts to grow their curriculum and connect education to careers.**
- ✔ **Expand program like the Navajo Technical University Early Childhood Multicultural Education program for Navajo early education teachers in Crownpoint. These programs further strengthen our Native communities.**
- ✔ **Invest capital outlay funding for buildings on Tribal college campuses.**

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PRESERVATION

Indigenous communities are at risk for losing their native languages. As governor, I will support responsible efforts to authorize Tribal nations to form their own state-funded schools through state-Tribal education compacts. This can empower these nations to integrate Tribal education priorities into curriculum, including language and cultural education. These compact schools must be held to the same accountability requirements as all schools, and I will work with Tribes to ensure that there is a clear plan to accomplish responsible implementation of this proposal.

WATER AND LAND ISSUES

The Tribes and Pueblos have longstanding rights to land and water.

As governor, I will:

- ✓ **Prioritize the settlement of all Tribal claims for long-term harmony and cooperation among all interested parties through respect for the sovereignty of Tribal nations and Pueblos.**
- ✓ **Seek to reach settlement of outstanding water right claims with the six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos.**
- ✓ **Support the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.**
- ✓ **Advocate for Senator Heinrich's Tribal Access to Clean Water Act and invest capital outlay into building water pipes and infrastructure that will provide indoor plumbing to those communities and families who need it most.**
- ✓ **Center Tribal priorities. I will actively embrace Tribal representation in my administration, appointing qualified stakeholders to helm state agencies including the Indian Affairs Department. I will also increase funding for the Department so that more resources make their way to Tribes and their respective citizens. Finally, I will appoint a task force comprised of multiple Cabinet Secretaries work in collaboration with the Tribes and Pueblos to spearhead and help drive my policies and initiatives in culturally conscious capacities.**

SAFE BORDERS, STRONG FAMILIES

Sam Bregman's Immigration Plan

A SMART, COMPASSIONATE, AND SAFE IMMIGRATION

As a candidate for Governor in a border state, I understand that immigration is more than a policy issue — it's a matter of public safety, economic stability, and respect for human rights. We must enforce the rule of law and protect the rights of all residents, regardless of immigration status.

Our immigration policy must secure our communities without tearing families apart or undermining public trust. My plan delivers a commonsense, compassionate approach that prioritizes safety, respects due process, and strengthens the relationship between immigrant communities and our local and state governments.

New Mexico has significant crime problems that need the focus of law enforcement every day. That is where my Administration's focus will be, not on immigration matters. We will cooperate with the federal government in the case of serious criminal offenses and continue the efforts I have made as Bernalillo DA to keep all New Mexico residents—including immigrants—safe.

A SMART, COMPASSIONATE, AND SAFE IMMIGRATION

Keep Local and State Agencies Focused on Public Service — Not Immigration Enforcement.

Direct all state and local agencies to avoid inquiries into immigration status during the delivery of public services, including education, healthcare, housing, and emergency assistance.

Prevent law enforcement from questioning individuals about immigration status unless directly relevant to an active criminal investigation.

Cooperate with ICE on Serious Criminal Offenses

State and local law enforcement will only coordinate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when:

- **There is a judicial criminal warrant, or**
- **The individual has been convicted of a violent or serious felony under state or federal law.**
-

The state will not honor ICE detainer requests that lack judicial authorization and will not participate in mass enforcement actions or civil immigration sweeps.

Guarantee Due Process and Legal Protections for All Residents

Ensure individuals in state custody are informed of their rights, including:

- **The right to remain silent**
- **The right to legal counsel of custody.**

A SMART, COMPASSIONATE, AND SAFE IMMIGRATION

Establish Safe Zones from Immigration Enforcement

Establish at sensitive locations, including:

- **Public schools and universities**
- **Hospitals and health clinics**
- **Places of worship**
- **Courthouses**

Build Trust Between Law Enforcement and Immigrant Communities

Prohibit the use of immigration status to discourage or penalize individuals who report crimes, seek protective orders, or cooperate with law enforcement.

Invest in culturally competent public safety training and community liaison programs to ensure police departments can effectively engage with immigrant communities.

My policy will ensure that we uphold public safety without sacrificing human dignity or the rule of law. The Supreme Court has been clear; everyone is entitled to due process and as governor, I will protect the right. My approach reflects our state's values — fairness, community, and the belief that no one should live in fear simply because of their legal status. Under my leadership, our state will stand strong at the border — not with cruelty or chaos, but with a smart, fair, and effective strategy that honors both security and compassion.

FIXING SANTA FE

**Sam Bregman's Plan for a Government That Works
for All New Mexicans**

For far too long, New Mexico has been last in all the good things and first in all the bad things, and sadly, we've grown accustomed to these statistics. But I know we can do better, and we must do better. Families in every corner of our state, no matter their zip code, deserve opportunity, safety, and a brighter future.

That starts with reforming our legislature and ensuring it works for the people, rather than for the politicians. We need a governor who will put everyday New Mexicans first, investing in schools, creating good-paying jobs, strengthening public safety, and building a New Mexico that lifts everyone up instead of holding us back. Our state is full of talent, grit, and possibility, and with the right leadership, we can finally move from the bottom of the rankings to the top where we belong.

As Governor Sam Will:

Break the Career Politician Cycle – For far too long, some politicians have held seats in our legislature for decades and decades. While we respect the years of service many have given to our state, the lack of term limits has come at a cost. By keeping the same people in power, we are missing out on the next generation of leaders who bring new ideas, fresh perspectives, and the energy we need to tackle today's challenges.

- Constitutional Amendment Work with the legislature to put a term limits amendment on the ballot for voters to approve (since it changes the state constitution).**
- Replace the outdated model with yearly 90-day sessions, giving lawmakers the time to govern effectively without relying on backroom deals or lobbyist-driven shortcuts. Each 90-day session will be open to address any and all issues affecting the state and its people.**

As Governor Sam Will:

Establish Fair Pay and Longer Sessions – New Mexico is the only state left with a volunteer legislature, and this puts us at a disadvantage. Without pay, it's nearly impossible for everyday New Mexicans to run for office, often leaving power in the hands of older retirees and the wealthy. On top of that, our short 30 and 60-day sessions don't give us enough time to debate and pass important bills, meaning game-changing ideas often die without a hearing. Fair pay and longer sessions would open the doors of public service to more working people and ensure every idea gets the chance it deserves.

- **Independent compensation commission, so pay changes aren't set by the legislators themselves.**
- **Pay legislators a reasonable salary (median income)**

Reform Capitol Outlay - Our capital outlay process has evolved into a system of political favors rather than strategic investment. Projects are too often chosen based on who has the most influence, not what communities need most. We need greater transparency, require clear criteria for funding, and ensure that dollars go to projects that create real long-term value for our communities, not just short-term political wins.

- **From sitting idle, all new projects should be placed in the budget, where they can be openly debated, prioritized, and held accountable for results.**

THE AFFORDABILITY AGENDA

**Sam Bregman's Plan for a Government That Works for
All New Mexicans**

As Governor Sam Will:

- **Build more homes and cut housing costs through incentives and direct assistance. I will create a New Homes for New Mexico Program to incentivize the construction of starter homes that first-time home buyers can afford and give renters the first chance to buy their homes.**
- **Lower home/apartment rental costs. I will build more affordable rental homes in the communities where people want to live – near jobs, schools, and transit – and expand rental assistance. Stop speculators from driving up housing costs. I will protect families from corporate landlords and out-of-state investors by giving New Mexicans the first chance to buy homes, closing tax loopholes that subsidize Wall Street, banning secret rent setting schemes, requiring transparency in bulk purchases, and making the home-buying process fairer and more affordable.**
- **Cut energy costs for residents and small business. Cover the cost of insulation, air sealing, and efficient appliances by expanding rebate and weatherization programs so that households can cut bills immediately without a large upfront expense. Let families pay for solar and batteries over time on their utility bills by creating a statewide on-bill financing program. Utilities would cover the upfront cost of installing solar panels or home batteries, and families would repay the cost in small monthly amounts added to their bill. Because the savings from lower energy use offset much of the payment, households see lower bills right away without needing thousands of dollars upfront.**

As Governor Sam Will:

- **For businesses, provide grants and tax credits for efficient equipment like lighting, HVAC, and refrigeration, funded through state economic development programs so that businesses can cut monthly bills. Give businesses affordable financing for rooftop solar and storage by expanding the state's loan programs to include clean energy, helping small businesses lock in predictable, lower energy costs.**
- **Expand the Child Tax Credit for families with young children. This will put more money directly in parents' pockets.**
- **Increase the Working Families Tax Credit so hard work pays off even more.**
- **Protect New Mexicans from the Trump/GOP cuts to health care with direct assistance and eliminate the tax on medical services to help keep health costs down.**
- **Establish a family caregiver tax credit up to \$3,000 to help offset costs for taking care of a loved one and allow people to age at home. This lowers costs for families and keeps people out of costly nursing homes.**
- **Lower Prescription Drug prices. Establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) to review high-cost medications and set upper payment limits and increase transparency around pricing and rebates.**

As Governor Sam Will:

- **Help parents with the cost of raising kids: Establish launchpad bank accounts with up to \$10,000 for babies born into low-income families and develop a state baby bonds program to invest in the future of every child by allocating \$3,200 at birth for Medicaid-eligible babies. Funds grow until age 18. Create, for low- and middle-income families, Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) will open the door to save for college, buy first homes, or start small businesses. These matched savings accounts give working families the tools to build wealth and opportunity.**
- **Cut small business costs**
- **Help provide low-cost capital by guaranteeing business loans**
- **Waive GRT for Vet owned businesses. Offer tax credits for investing in vet owned businesses. Offering tax credits for employers who employ NM Guard member when they are activated. Expanding incentives/credits for businesses that hire veterans.**
- **Provide small businesses with a refundable state tax credit of \$5,000 for each net new job created. This will help create jobs as well as lower costs.**
- **Statewide \$10–\$20/month Affordable Connectivity Plan to replace the federal ACP the GOP allowed to expire.**
- **Grants to expand rural broadband, lowering the cost of service for rural families.**

As Governor Sam Will:

- **Ban junk fees and surprise billing by telecom companies at the state level.**
- **Ban predatory “junk fees” on rental applications, ticketing, hotels, utilities, and banking.**
- **Create a state-backed low-interest small-dollar emergency loan program to keep families out of debt traps.**
- **Cap annual rate increases by utilities unless approved through a public affordability test.**
- **Help rural areas repair aging water systems so communities aren’t hit with massive water bill spikes.**
- **Statewide assistance fund to help families with emergency utility arrears to avoid shutoffs.**
- **Create a New Mexico Insurance Affordability Office to review and regulate unfair premium increases for auto, home, and renters insurance.**
- **Offer a state-backed insurance option in high-risk fire zones so families aren’t priced out.**
- **Anti-Price Gouging Law year-round (not just during emergencies) for groceries, gas, utilities, and prescription drugs.**
- **Transparency rules requiring large companies to justify price hikes above inflation.**

As Governor Sam Will:

- **Limit annual increases in property taxes for seniors on fixed incomes.**
- **Expand home retrofit programs (fall prevention, ramps, weatherization) at no cost to low-income seniors.**
- **\$250/year Senior Utility Credit for fixed-income seniors.**