

Be sure to vote—both parties to hold primaries this Tuesday

As primary season comes to a close, voters will be asked to go to the polls this Tuesday and cast their vote for the person they think is best suited to represent Albuquerque's interests in Washington. Our final two candidates that we will feature before the election are Michelle Lujan Grisham and Rebecca Vigil-Giron.

Lujan Grisham has lived in Albuquerque since 1978, and has been

involved in politics here since she was appointed in 1991 by Governor Bruce King to direct the New Mexico State Agency on Aging. Because of her work in the Department of Aging, Lujan Grisham was appointed Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health by Governor Bill Richardson in 2004.

Vigil-Giron has been a New Mexico resident all her life, having gone to

high school in Taos and college at New Mexico Highlands. She was elected Secretary of State for New Mexico in 1987, and served through 1990, and elected again in 1999 and serving through 2006.

The *Chronicle* urges all students and faculty to take advantage of the



opportunity to vote, and go out and cast your ballot this Tuesday, June 3. Remember, the polls close at 7:00 p.m., so get there early to make sure your vote is counted!



Q & A with Michelle Lujan Grisham

1. What do you feel sets you apart from the other candidates?

I have spent most of my professional career advocating on behalf of New Mexico families. My experience positions me to best represent you in Congress.

2. What changes do you plan to make if elected?

I would assure access to quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans; honor elders by protecting and preserving Social Security and Medicare; ensure an educated workforce to be competitive in a 21st-century economy; end the war immediately; develop a balanced approach to energy conservation.

3. What qualifies you for this elected position?

More than two decades dealing with the very issues that affect quality of life for New Mexicans, including making healthcare affordable and accessible, improving education, improving the economy and protecting the environment.

4. What do you plan to do to aid New Mexico's underfunded educational system?

I would remove unfunded mandates, like No Child Left Behind, which divert needed funds from going directly to students and provide fair and flexible funding to support states to make education a

priority.

5. If elected, how would you deal with the red-light camera situation, and where should the money go?

Local government use cameras at stop lights to reduce the impact on local law enforcement of tracking offenders. The debate is locally focused right now. From a federal policy perspective it would be great to see those dollars go directly to law enforcement or to organizations that help victims of accidents.

6. Where do you stand on the Iraqi war?

I would end the war now and bring our troops home safely so we can begin to invest in America again.

7. What should be done about the economy, locally and nationally, in regard to the current recession?

I would support efforts to invest in jobs in the U.S., address healthcare costs and address fuel and food costs.

8. What are you going to do to make post-secondary education more available and affordable to the public?

I would remove predatory lending practices and replace it with appropriate grants and investments to make college affordable for students.

9. How accessible are you now to the public, and how accessible would you

be if elected?

I'm the kind of public servant who has been accessible to my constituents my entire career. Case in point: nursing home residents still have my cell phone number and are encouraged to call me for help at any time.

10. What are your views on healthcare?

All Americans should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. I would work to create a system that focuses on fair access, eliminates pre-existing condition requirements, and requires government programs to negotiate fair and appropriate prices. I would reauthorize SCHIP so that all of America's children have healthcare. We must also rethink the healthcare model by giving people incentives to lead healthier lives, which help contain healthcare costs and improve health outcomes. Preventative care should be as important as catastrophic care and it will save taxpayers billions in the long run.

11. What do you feel should be done to preserve the environment?

I would develop a balanced approach to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, boost our use of renewable energy and support strict conservation measures. Is it America's job to lead the Green Revolution? Yes. Given the collective experience we have at the nation's universities,



Courtesy of Michelle Lujan Grisham for Congress

we should focus our efforts to be leaders in green technology.

12. Where do you stand on immigration?

I favor comprehensive immigration reform which would focus on holding employers accountable and provide an effective way for currently undocumented immigrants to get on a fair path to citizenship.

13. Why should the

CNM community vote for you?

Because I am the candidate who will best represent New Mexico. I have demonstrated my ability to represent families statewide. I know the next steps have to be at the federal level in order to effect change in this country on important topics such as healthcare and education.

Q & A with Rebecca Vigil-Giron

1. What do you feel sets you apart from the other candidates?

I have more real experience than the other candidates combined. I have worked while Secretary of State within a budget. I have national experience (President of the Association of Secretaries of State) and internationally (as a presidential election observer) in the countries of Angola, Africa; Equatorial Guinea Africa; the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. I have represented New Mexico in Taiwan, in the United Kingdom, Japan, El Salvador and Mexico. I am currently a Commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. This Agency ensures that the standards for law enforcement are uniform throughout this country. I care deeply about the people of this District. I represent the "heart and soul" of this State and want to continue to be your voice in the most important halls of this country, the U.S. Congress.

2. What changes do you plan to make if elected?

I plan on communicating with my constituents. I plan on holding town hall meetings at each of the Public Centers within this District. I plan on using my bully pulpit to reach out to the Junior High School boys and girls, High School kids, CNM students and UNM students to get them involved in the political process. I have the courage to speak to these kids about sex and how early babies keeps kids in poverty. I want to change three statistics while in my first two terms: reducing the number of unwed mothers, reducing the number of early births to unwed mothers, and increasing the birth weights of our children through education. I have the courage to change things that need changing. I will end this war. I will shore up Social Security. Health care is too expensive. I guarantee I will work to resolve these issues.

3. What qualifies you

for this elected position?

My twenty year experience as a public servant with the State of New Mexico qualifies me for this office. Listening to people from all walks of life qualifies me for this office. Being a single mom qualifies me for this office. Being a graduate of New Mexico Highlands University qualifies me for this office. Attending the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executives in State and Local Government Seminar qualifies me for this office.

4. What do you plan to do to aid New Mexico's underfunded educational system?

I realize New Mexico's educational system is underfunded. This has not been a priority of the current administration. I will work hard with my fellow congressmen to make this a national priority. I will use businesses in New Mexico to help develop curriculum that will further develop young people to join the workforce with needed skills. I will encourage the Chambers of Congress to bring volunteers to schools to help work the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic.

5. If elected, how would you deal with the red-light camera situation, and where should the money go?

This is a City of Albuquerque issue and should remain their issue and not allow the State to infringe on their right to control their own traffic rules. However, the State in turn should turn the cost of building the new Metro Court back to the City for which part of traffic fines in Albuquerque go to.

6. Where do you stand on the Iraqi war?

The Iraqi war was an unjust war to begin with. We should end the war in an honorable way. Congress should within the next two years, cut off funding for this war. With two years, the State Department and the Defense

7. What should be done about the economy, locally and nationally, in regard to the current recession?

Department can come up with a way to allow the U.S. to remove themselves from this fiasco in an honorable way. We need to start negotiations with the Regional powers of Iran, Saudia Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and other surrounding Middle Eastern countries for them to provide security for this region rather than the U.S. being the cops of the world.

8. What are you going to do to make post-secondary education more available and affordable to the public?

I want to continue to support the funding for Sandia National Laboratory in this District because of the impact it has in New Mexico. I want to insure that any Company that functions in the U.S. brings back their jobs to the U.S. mainland. I want to support small businesses in my District. We have training needs that can be met at CNM and at UNM that should be funded.

9. How accessible are you now to the public, and how accessible would you be if elected?

I want to encourage Congress to increase funding for student loans and grants. I want to make payback of these loans easier and will forgive them if the student works in the public service of this country.

10. What are your views on healthcare?

Healthcare should be affordable and accessible to everyone in this nation. How do you accomplish that? I do not believe in socialized medicine, however, I believe that

the drug companies should be obligated to negotiate any drugs that they sell to federally financed programs like Medicare and Medicaid. The Veterans Administration negotiates for their medicines. Why shouldn't the other departments negotiate as well? I would support changing the current laws to mandate this enhancement for our seniors and the young frail.

11. What do you feel should be done to preserve the environment? Is it America's job to lead the "Green Revolution?"

I believe we need to encourage less energy consumption. We need to encourage development of hydrogen fuel cells for automobile use. We need to encourage electric power companies to develop wind energy. I believe America's job is to be a part of the Green Revolution and join with other countries of the world to insure that the carbon footprints of a nation are reduced.

12. Where do you stand on immigration?

I believe we need to treat all immigrants with respect. They come to find work to support their families. Those that are not here for that purpose should be removed from this

13. Why should the CNM community vote for you?

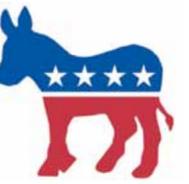
I am a person of integrity. I have been slammed as of late due to my popularity as a public servant. The Democrats have never held this Congressional seat in the 39 years since its creation. What you are seeing is the Republican Party's stronghold on this seat and their Washington forces intervening to insure that the GOP does not lose this seat. The CNM community should vote for me because I can win this seat and you will then have a Congressman that cares deeply and with sincerity about this educational community.

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