

3/28/22 NOTES

Indivisible SOS meeting

1. Leadership team meeting Monday the 4th from 11:00 to 12:30 pm.
2. Indivisible Conference will be on the evening of April 29th and all day Saturday April 30th. If you've signed up to go, please watch for an email with info on lodging and list of others going. Please coordinate amongst yourselves on the logistics of lodging, car pools, etc.
3. Our discussion group will launch in April. Trudy O'Toole and Peggy Claus will facilitate, starting in April. Each topic will be based on an article and what members want to discuss. Day and time still to come.
4. Georgia postcards are packaged and are awaiting your pick up at Jayne's or Marti's. Please watch for an email with addresses and where your package of cards is.
5. Campaign kickoff and fundraiser for Reena Szczpanski on March 31st. Flyer was included with agenda email.
6. Pam made a brief report from Indivisible National. They were emphasizing gratitude and celebration of victories. Leah offered this inspirational quote:

"Don't look for a moment of total triumph. See engagement as an ongoing struggle, with victories and defeats, but in the long run slow progress. So you need patience and persistence. Understand that even when you don't "win," there is fun and fulfillment in the fact that you have been involved, with other good people, in something worthwhile. To be hopeful in bad times is not foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places - and there are so many - where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction." - Howard Zinn

7. Speaker is Gabe Vasquez, primary candidate for NM CD2
<https://gabeforcongress.com/meet-gabe/>

His campaign is blooming! He's a 1st generation American who is grateful for the sacrifices of his parents and grandparents. He served as City Councilor in Las Cruces. He's been campaigning since September. He currently is holding down a job in addition to running for office and feels he has been called to public service.

His priorities include:

1. Education: with the best educators and a safe environment. He sees a need for the entire family unit, that parents need to be respected and included. Champion parents. We are for teaching truth and facts.
2. We are now living with the largest wealth gap and he would like to close it.
3. Building a nation where women can choose the timing of their family and allow for possibility to make a good living. We need legislative solutions to the threat to Roe v. Wade.

4. He is dedicated to public lands and wildlife. He is concerned for climate crisis and the need for good replacement jobs for O&G industry.
5. He has worked with many wildlife, wilderness and environmental groups. Working for National Wildlife Federation now.
6. There is a false choice between renewable energies and O&G. He believes in a worker-first approach during the transition
7. He'd like to rebuild the middle class, providing economic opportunity for all, especially recent immigrants and indigenous peoples.

Gabe is looking forward to working and fighting together with Teresa Leger Fernandez and Melanie Stansbury.

CD2 is one of 12 DCCC chosen red to blue seats.

One can look at Gabe's time as City Councilor to learn more about his record.

See his endorsement here <https://gabeforcongress.com/endorsements/>

Q. Where do you stand on criminal justice reform?

A. We need more investments in rehabilitation, especially for low level, non-violent criminals. Better infrastructure is needed to reintegrate criminals into society, funding programs that work. Felons should be given back their right to vote, for instance. Mental health treatment requires a continuum of care, otherwise we are wasting money. Virtual access is one tool we can better utilize in rural areas. There must be more investment in traveling mental health professionals. He will not accept money from the primal prison complex.

Q. How will you thread the needle of O&G dependence, especially in CD2?

A. We are hearing now that we must drill more to help Europe become independent of Russian O&G is the opposite of what we should be doing. We should be quickening our pace to transition to renewable energy sources and clean energy independence. The argument that we must drill more to bring gas prices down take root in the middle class, especially around the Permian Basin. We need to UNLOCK the energy potential of NM. We are 2nd or 3rd in solar, 3rd or 4th in wind, but we lack the transmission capacity. Sun Zia is one company looking to build transmission lines so we can sell to AZ, CA and NV. There have been issues locating the lines from Bureau of Land Management and Department of Defense conflicts. Jobs will not go away for at least 10-15 years which is the time frame of existing leases. Gabe insists on putting people first, not corporations. Democrats need to tell people we are on their side. We're looking out for the future of their kids, not the O&G industry.

Gabe is for common-sense ways to increase tax dollars for NM while pushing O&G do the right things. Increasing royalty rates, NM gets 16-17%, while other states get 20-25% and use that money for climate mitigation. Update bonding rates. We have thousands of abandoned wells leaking methane. O&G creates shell companies to explore, then abandon them leaving tax payers on the hook. Trump reversed

methane rules and we need to put them back and increase them to further penalize O&G if they don't meet required capture levels.

Q. Dr Patel is your primary candidate, what is your approach?

A. Gabe is running to beat Yvette Herrell. He's talking to people, having visited every county already. He can work across the aisle and has, getting the County Commission, all Republicans to sign on to a dark sky "Cosmic Campground" in the Gila.

Q. What is Yvette's Achilles Heel?

A. There is some polling coming to help define these anecdotal examples. Lots of Independents, Conservative Democrats and Liberal Republicans do not like the job that Yvette is doing. She has not connected with her constituents or other governing bodies within her district, despite being asked to. For example, Benny Jasso, mayor of Deming, a Republican, has endorsed Gabe because of this. She voted to decertify the election. She did not vote for the infrastructure bill and cannot be allowed to take credit for it.

Q. But she is taking credit. What's the messaging to combat that?

A. Republicans are obstructionists, draw the contrast. Democrats are winners, not whiners. Truth vs treason, performance vs. partisanship, democracy vs doom.

Q. What can we do to help?

A. Write post cards, op-eds, letters to editor. Text and phone bank. Canvass, Donate.

Q. On your website, there should be an address for people to mail checks and a place for comments.

A. Thank you.

Q. We are facing bullies, how do you respond to that? People don't respond to truth or facts.

A. We have to punch back. We cannot be seen as weak. We've seen Latino men flock to Trump, who has a certain machismo that attracts them.

Q. Where do you stand on hydrogen?

A. He honestly answered that he has not studied it enough to clearly understand it, but that anything we do to transition our energy sector must be truly green. There are programs to help train especially O&G workers for renewable energy sector, School and State Budget Act (fed) and The Energy Transition Act (NM).