

Candidate Responses

Candidates

General eligibility requirements for all state, district, and county candidates: A candidate must be a registered voter in New Mexico affiliated with the political party for which he/she is seeking office. A candidate for district office must reside in that district.

United States Senator

Two United States senators are elected to six-year staggered terms by the entire state. Candidates must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which elected. The United States Senate has 100 members. One New Mexico Senate seat is up for election this year.

Questions for the Candidates for United States Senator

(4 questions - 100 words each)

1. What are the three top economic concerns facing the country? What actions would you take as a U.S. senator to address these concerns?
2. What is your position on the war in Iraq, and what actions should the United States take?
3. As both major party presidential candidates have supported legislation to deal with global climate change, this issue is expected to come up in the next Congress. What legislation, if any, would you support to tackle this issue?
4. Should Congress take steps to ensure that all people living in the United States have access to affordable, quality health care? Please explain.

Steve Pearce

United States Senator (R)



1. 1) Congress must create a successful business environment that provides growth opportunities for New Mexican businesses. I support a low tax structure. Tax cuts create jobs. Raising taxes puts a downward pressure on the economy that results in lost jobs. 2) We must lower energy costs. I introduced the Clean Energy, Lower Prices Act to allow drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf and Alaska. It takes royalties from oil drilling leases and accelerates investments in renewable energy. Nuclear energy must be expanded. 3) Providing a world class education provides higher living standards as US companies increase competitiveness in the global-market.

2. Iraq is one of the many fronts in the war on terror. Congress must listen to the military commanders on the ground to ensure Iraq does not become a terrorist train-

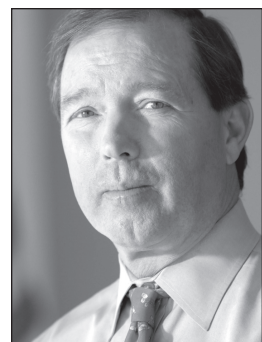
ing ground. Iraqi forces are now securing 10 of 18 provinces with more to be controlled by the end of 2008. As Iraq stabilizes, more American troops can be rotated home. The cost of failure in the war on terror will be the fall of over 50 moderate Arab regimes. If the terrorists gain control they have promised to pull oil off the world market, causing economic and social upheaval.

3. The real question is, will the U.S. take unilateral action to reduce carbon emissions. China and other countries are not considering action so the global effect of our efforts will have minimal impact. Are we willing to bring down our living standards and lose jobs to support actions that may have no effect on climate change? In Europe, the cost of cap and trade is punitive to consumers and businesses. My bill the Clean Energy, Lower Prices Act will lower gas prices in the short-term and make us more energy independent in the long-term through investments in renewables and nuclear.

4. Fundamental changes to America's healthcare system must be made to control rising costs. I oppose an attempt to socialize health care. I support investment in disease research, tele-medicine, ending frivolous lawsuits, access to home care, replacing emergency care with preventative medicine, promoting healthy lifestyles, and teaching people how to manage their diseases to lower healthcare costs.

Tom Udall

United States Senator (D)



1. Our top economic concerns are: making the economy work again for hard-working Americans; helping the middle class being hurt by rising food, gas, health care and education costs; and getting the nation's finances back in order. I will support legislation to provide a tax credit to companies that maintain or increase the number of workers in America and will end the tax breaks for companies that outsource American jobs. I will also work to expand college scholarships, reduce energy costs by cracking down on oil speculators and expanding alternative energy, and reduce the deficit by cutting wasteful spending.

2. After 9/11, I supported sending troops into Afghanistan to stop Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda. I opposed the Iraq war because it took us away from our mission. We need to start bringing our troops home from Iraq safely, and refocus on the resurgent threat in Afghanistan. We need to stop spending billions every month in Iraq that could be used at home. And we need to treat our troops with the respect they have earned. That's why I have worked for better health care for our veterans and fought for the new G.I. Bill.

3. We face the twin challenges of global warming and rising energy costs. I introduced legislation in Congress to reduce global warming pollution, while re-charging

our economy with new alternative energy jobs. My energy plan addresses immediate concerns by cracking down on speculation and exploring responsible drilling, but also addresses future energy needs by investing in alternative energy. We need increased conservation, and investment in a New Energy Economy, providing long term tax incentives for wind and solar power so America can become a world leader in these and similar industries. There is no single answer - we must do it all.

4. I support affordable, accessible health care for every American. There are three things I want to do right now to get the job done. One, allow every small business access to the same health care plan available to members of Congress and federal employees. That means everyone will be paying the lowest rate like the largest businesses. Second, allow individuals aged 55-64 to buy into Medicare. Some in this age group are retired and their previous employers don't continue health insurance for them. And three, make sure every child has health insurance by expanding the children's health insurance program.

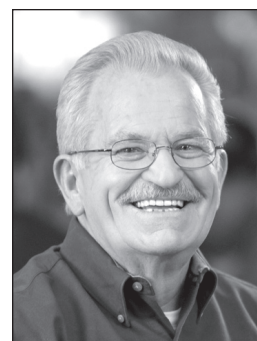
Questions for the Candidates for the U. S. House of Representatives

(4 questions - 75 words each)

1. Federal policy seems inadequate to handle the number of undocumented individuals entering and currently residing in the United States. What reforms in immigration policy do you propose to address this issue?
2. Health care is a national crisis. What should the federal government do to ensure that every American has affordable health care?
3. What are the three most important actions that should be taken by the federal government to improve the nation's economy?
4. What three proposals would you recommend to address the nation's energy crisis?
5. What role should the United States play in the future of Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries in that region?

Harry Teague

U. S. House of Representatives
District 2 (D)



1. We need to make it easier to get into our country legally and harder to get in illegally. First, we must secure the border with more border agents and technology. But we also need an earned path to citizenship for those who play by the rules, pay back taxes, and learn English.

2. At age 17, I went to work for \$1.50 an

hour to provide for my family when my father became ill and did not have health insurance. No American should have to face the situation I did and that's why I will fight in Congress for a system that allows every American to have affordable health coverage.

3. To address what I believe are the three most pressing issues in today's economy, we must: invest in alternative energy and expand domestic oil production, where environmentally sound, to lower gas prices and become energy independent; increase rural jobs tax credits to create more jobs in Southern New Mexico; and ensure that the minimum wage keeps up with inflation.

4. To solve the energy crisis, we need a Congressman who understands the energy industry. I have worked in that industry my entire life - from the oil fields to bringing renewable energy projects to Southern New Mexico. To reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bring down gas prices, we must: drill where environmentally sound, invest in alternative energy, and conserve.

5. Our brave men and women have done all that they can in Iraq. Now it is time to bring them home with honor and let the Iraqis run their own country, and spend some of the \$3 billion we spend in Iraq each week here at home. We must also refocus our efforts on hunting down the terrorists in Afghanistan.

Edward R. Tinsley

U. S. House of Representatives
District 2 (R)



1. Any change to our immigration policy must start with sealing the borders. Once the border has been secured, we must then develop a temporary guest worker program that does not lead to amnesty for the 12 million illegal immigrants already here.

2. When addressing the health care crisis we must preserve the patient-doctor relationship. We can not have a socialized health care system in this country that puts that relationship at risk. Congress needs to enact legislation to allow small businesses to purchase health insurance across state lines, lowering costs and expanding coverage.

3. The best way to help southern New Mexico's economy is a sensible energy policy, one that allows for the exploration of American oil. While I support the government stepping in to help shaky credit markets, long-term reform is needed on day one of the new Congress - starting with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

4. Find more oil, use less and investing in the future in alternative sources of power will lead the way out of this energy mess. I support an "all of the above" bill that will accomplish this. However, the recently passed House bill is dead on arrival in the Senate and shows par-

continued on following page
2008 Voters Guide • 3