

On Our Way to the Convention

A Word from the Chairwoman

Debra Haaland, July 24, 2016

This week, I am honored that New Mexico's delegation to the Democratic National Convention put their trust in me to lead our delegation to Philadelphia for what is

a time-honored Democratic tradition. We are all here, in good faith, to support our Party, to nominate the next President of the

United States, and to experience democracy in action. Our responsibility is great, and it is serious considering what is at stake in this election. The National Convention is an incredible opportunity to meet fellow Democrats from around the country. Our delegation will make new friends through this experience. And we will build a strong bond and will be ready to get to work to win Democratic seats up and down the ballot when we return to New Mexico.

I also want to express my gratitude to all our members of our delegation for taking on this responsibility, and representing our state with pride. Our delegation is as diverse as New Mexico is--the ages range from recent high school graduates to a 93-year-old WWII Veteran, and the majority of our members are of a minority group. This convention will be an incredible experience for everyone.

While growing up, my dad encouraged our love of and participation in history. While we were stationed at the Marine Base in Quantico, VA, he often took us to Washington, DC to ensure that we saw every memorial and every museum. I also remember him waking us up in the early morning hours to watch Neil Armstrong walking on the moon, live; I was 9. Likewise, my dad pulled me and my siblings out of bed to watch Elvis Presley on a live TV broadcast in 1968. If my dad were alive today, he would recognize the importance of this convention, and I'm honored to be a part of it.



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Dem of the Week: Joanne Ferrary

DPNM, July 24, 2016



Joanne Ferrary is running for New Mexico House District 37. Joanne native to New Mexican was raised in Las Cruces.

What experience do you bring to the table?

My earliest introduction to the NM

Legislature was in 1993 when I worked for NM DOT's Traffic Safety Bureau. We worked to pass legislation for effective measures that would reduce DWI injuries and fatalities and take NM out of the #1 position of highest in the Nation. NM dropped out of the top 10 states for DWI fatalities and continues to make progress in reducing DWI deaths and injuries. Over the years I continued to support bills that closed alcohol sales at drive-up windows and to institute the use of ignition interlocks. I was a registered lobbyist to raise the State Minimum Wage as well as for Fair Mortgage Foreclosure practices in 2013 and 2014.

What is the role of the NM House Representatives and why is it important?

The role of the NM House of Representatives is to be aware of and support opportunities that will improve the lives of New Mexicans that include health, education, employment and quality of life.

What is your favorite thing about your home District?

My favorite thing about House District 37 is the wonderful view of the Organ Mountains and Desert Peaks whose beauty can be enjoyed from our homes, Doña Ana Community College, the Hospital, our golf courses, our shopping centers, and restaurants.

Why is being a representative of NM HD37 important to you?

Being a Representative for HD37 is important to me because I see the desperate need for change in our Region and State to reduce the poverty that is impacting our families and especially is correlated with how successful our kids are in school. Providing Early Childhood Education for all children will ensure better outcomes for their education and eventually, their earning power. Reducing barriers for small businesses and leveling the playing field with big corporations is important for a sustainable economy and supporting renewable energy with solar, wind and geothermal will increase jobs as well as benefit the environment. I believe we can build on the strengths of our Region in southern NM and our State. We have great opportunities with our warm climate, beautiful landscape, two major interstates, and border port of entry. We just need to invest in our future with Early Childhood and continued educational improvements that include raising teacher salaries, less testing, supporting living wages for families who work hard yet wind up needing tax subsidies to make ends meet. I want to be instrumental in protecting women's access to healthcare that includes her rights to make personal decisions for her own body.

As N.M. House Representative of N.M. House District 37 what would you like to accomplish?

I want to make sure that we have a better community for all New Mexicans, not just a few. For too long, New Mexico has not moved forward the way that it is capable of. I don't want to hear anymore that New Mexico is a poor state, and we can't do anything about it. As head of the DWI Task Force, I continuously heard the argument that we couldn't change the DWI problem in New Mexico, but when we concentrated our efforts and worked hard on the issue, we cut the number of DWI fatalities in half. We have so many opportunities, in such a diverse state, to create jobs, build our infrastructure, and educate our children. First of all, I want to make sure that our capital outlay money is spent responsibly. Specifically, I look forward to expanding early childhood education to invest in our children while rebuilding our infrastructure, creating jobs in the film industry and supporting renewable energy.

What are some of the issues that are important to you that you would like to address as a New Mexico State House Representative?

The most critical need we have is to invest in our children. New Mexico currently ranks 49th in the country for child well being, and this is unacceptable. All proven data shows that state economies do better when resources are invested in programs that support children to be healthy and successful at an early age. If our legislature can make the commitment NOW to invest in early childhood education, healthcare for all children and raising the minimum wage to help families out of poverty, we will see great dividends for all New Mexicans.

Red or green?

This is an important question, and I love both! My favorite dish is Chile Rellenos! The test for a good restaurant is if they make

good rellenos! Las Cruces has access to the absolute best chile in the world, and there is nothing like the aroma of roasting chile in the fall to set off your taste buds! I pour green on almost everything, especially cheeseburgers and hotdogs and I love chicken enchiladas from Los Compas or my own family recipe. Red chile sauce is great on dishes like tamales from El Sombrero Express and huevos rancheros at Chilitos. You can never make the wrong choice by choosing Christmas with Si Senor burritos.

Colfax County Dems Come Together in Cimarron

DPNM, July 24, 2016



JULY 25-28

Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia!

AUGUST 9

Cibola County Democrats Meeting
(5:30 p.m.)

AUGUST 11

Eddy County Democrats Monthly Meeting
(6 - 7:30 p.m.)

AUGUST 18

Doña Ana County Democrats Monthly Meeting
(6 - 8 p.m.)

AUGUST 18

Chaves County Democrats Monthly Meeting
(6 - 7:30 p.m.)