

SPARC Resolutions – Submitted to SCC

Spring SCC Meeting April 21, 2018

1. Resolution Title: Public Financing for All Campaigns

Author/Submitting Organization: Jerilyn Bowen

WHEREAS: Most campaigns win or lose based on how much money they have at their disposal.

WHEREAS: It costs so much to run for office, most political candidates find it necessary to rely on funding from the rich and powerful, i.e., from corporations and other vested interests.

WHEREAS: Our elected public officials are then beholden to their major funders rather than to the voters who put them in office and we voters are thus robbed of a meaningful voice in our governance--and in clear recognition that this de facto reality makes a mockery of the democratic process on which this country is founded--

BE IT RESOLVED: That the State of New Mexico institute adequate and competitive campaign public financing of all elected offices in the state

SOURCES: Center for Responsive Politics (OpenSecrets.org): Politicians & Elections/Election Overview, Election Cycle 2016: Candidates/Winning vs. Spending. bigspenders.php; Bump, Philip, 2012 "Does More Campaign Money Actually Buy More Votes: An Investigation." The Atlantic, Nov. 11, 2012; <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/11/does-more-campaign-money-actually-buy-more-votes-investigation/355154/> Center for Responsive Politics (OpenSecrets.org)

Sloan, Calvin 2015. "Money Talks: The State of Public Financing in California." California Common Cause. [money-talks.pdf](#);

Malhotra, Neil, 2008 "The Impact of Public Financing on Electoral Competition: Evidence from Arizona and Maine." State Politics and Policy Quarterly Vol. 8, No.3 (Fall 2008): pp.263-281, <https://web.stanford.edu/~neilm/The%20Impact%20of%20Public%20Financing%20on%20Electoral%20Competition.pdf>;

Jacobson, Gary C., "The Effects of Campaign Spending in House Elections: New Evidence for Old Arguments." American Journal of Political Science Vol.34, No. 2 (May 1990), pp.334-362, https://www.jstor.org/stable/2111450?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents; and "The Effects of Campaign Spending in Congressional Elections." American Political Science Review Vol. 72, No. 2 (Jun 1978): pp. 469-491.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/1954105?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents.

Kalla, Joshua L. and Brookman, David E., 2015 "Campaign Contributions Facilitate Access to Congressional Officials: A Randomized Field Experiment." American Journal of Political Science Vol. 60, Issue 3 (Jul 2016): pp. 545-558, Campaign Contributions Facilitate Access to Congressional Officials: A Randomized Field Experiment

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12180/abstract>

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Witko, Christopher, 2011 "Campaign Contributions, Access, and Government Contracting." Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory Vol.21, Issue 4 (Oct 2011): pp. 761-778, Campaign Contributions, Access, and Government Contracting,

<https://academic.oup.com/jpart/article-abstract/21/4/761/955742/Campaign-Contributions-Access-and-Government>

Sitaraman, Ganesh, "Our Constitution Wasn't Built for This," NYTimes, 9/17/17Sunday Review, pp.1 & 6.

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/images/100000005433963/2017/09/16/opinion/sunday/constitution-economy.html>. [See also The Crisis of the Middle Class Constitution: Why Economic

Inequality Threatens Our Republic by Ganesh Sitaraman (New York: Knopf, 2017)

https://www.amazon.com/Crisis-Middle-Class-Constitution-Inequality,Threatens/dp/0451493915#reader_0451493915.)

2. Resolution Title: Public Bank for New Mexico

Author/Submitting Organization: Roxanne Allen/Andrew Gingrich/Doug Spence/Camisha Cordova (Amended by the SPARC)

WHEREAS: "a public bank is a bank owned by either a government entity (such as a country, state, county or city) - or a non-profit organization - or a hybrid of both, rather than by private shareholders" (1), and

WHEREAS: "if a public bank is owned by a government entity, it is in essence owned by taxpayers, the public, it exists to serve their needs, not those of private owners" (2), and.

WHEREAS: those needs include the creation of new jobs and heightened economic growth, the encouragement of desirable industries such as green energy, the generation of new revenues for the state, the reduction of debt costs for local governments, the strengthening of local banks, the evening out of credit cycles, the ability to provide services for unbanked and underbanked citizens, and support for local small businesses, and

WHEREAS: the state of New Mexico is experiencing slower economic growth than its regional neighbors, and

WHEREAS: it is harmful to the citizens of the state of New Mexico to pay to out-of-state banks totals of 35% and more in interest on capital outlay projects, and

WHEREAS: the interest earned from loans made to New Mexico public agencies is currently paid to banking institutions based in other states but could represent a significant income to the state treasury, and

WHEREAS: New Mexico businesses and private citizens would benefit from banking services that base their decisions on the welfare of the state and its residents rather than on the welfare of out-of-state shareholders,

BE IT RESOLVED: the Democratic Party of New Mexico supports the establishment of publicly owned banks in order to derive maximum benefit from public monies and increase public budget revenues without increasing taxes, thereby stimulating the diversification of our local state economies and improving the economic well-being of the citizens of New Mexico.

SOURCES: Public Banking Institute: <http://publicbankinginstitute.org/advantages.htm>

Public Banking Institute: www.publicbankinginstitute.org/misperceptions

Occupy.Com: <http://www.occupy.com/article/how-america-can-replace-wall-street-financing-public-banks>

Community Enacted Economic Development: www.ceedprogram.com

Bank of North Dakota: www.banknd.nd.gov

<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/10/01/should-states-operate-public-banks/why-public-banking-works-in-north-dakota>

<http://bankingonnewmexico.org/>

3. Resolution Title: Citizen Oversight Commission for the New Mexico Corrections Department

Author/Submitting Organization: Selinda Guerrero

WHEREAS: New Mexico is one of about 25 states that has NO independent oversight of prison conditions.

WHEREAS: Among the strongest voices about our constitution's safeguarding against government abuses of power, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy spoke about the "hidden world of punishment," and emphasized the importance of "know[ing] what happens after the prisoner is taken away."

WHEREAS: The Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996 severely hampered the courts' ability to intervene in horrifying and extreme prison conditions cases.

WHEREAS: The ACLU and the American Bar Association have called on states to "establish public entities that are independent of any correctional agency to regularly monitor and report publicly on the conditions in all prisons, jails, and other adult and juvenile correctional facilities operating within their jurisdictions."

WHEREAS: The structure and function of providing for external public accountability of prison oversight have been clearly delineated establishing a model for implementation.

BE IT RESOLVED: The New Mexico State Legislature should establish and provide funding for an independent Citizen Oversight Commission for the New Mexico Corrections Department to provide regular monitoring and public reporting of conditions.

SOURCES:

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/st

<https://lbj.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/file/news/Deitch-->

<The%20Need%20for%20Independent%20Prison%20Oversight%20in%20a%20Post-PLRA%20World--Federal%20Sentencing%20Reporter--April%202012%5B1%5D.pdf>

<http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1981&context=lawfaculty>

https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publishing/criminal_justice_section_newsletter/crimjust_policy_am08104b.authcheckdam.pdf

<https://www.aclu-nm.org/en/node/6>

<http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1746&context=plr>

4. Resolution Title: Renewable Energy Jobs and Training in New Mexico

Author/Submitting Organization: Karen Bentrup (Amended by the SPARC)

WHEREAS: To meet the climate science based necessity of becoming fossil fuel-free as soon as possible in order to avoid catastrophic global climate disruption, to offer alternative electricity generation sources, and to provide a just transition to 100% renewable energy, New Mexico needs to dramatically expand its solar and wind production and its job training for these industries.

WHEREAS: For every \$1million invested in solar and wind power, 13-14 jobs are created as compared to 5-7 in coal and gas.

WHEREAS: Solar industry jobs in New Mexico have grown 54% with currently 3,000 solar jobs and 2,000 wind jobs in 2016; and nationally, workforce growth in U.S. solar jobs has increased at least 20% per year for the past four years.

WHEREAS: New Mexico community colleges and universities have been adding and expanding degree programs and jobs training at sites across the state including Clovis, Tucumcari, Alamogordo, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque.

BE IT RESOLVED: The New Mexico State Legislature should support renewable energy job training in the state

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: New Mexico State Legislature support the retraining of current employees within the extraction industry whose jobs are being eliminated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The New Mexico State Legislature should support the economic development of the solar and wind manufacturing industry of associated component parts.

5. RESOLUTION TITLE: Increase Funding for Pre-K Educational Programs from the Land Grant Permanent Fund

AUTHOR/SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION: New Mexico Federation of Democratic Women (Amended by the SPARC)

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a poor state which ranks at or near the bottom of the Kids Count study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation each year, and

WHEREAS, studies show that disadvantaged children hear 30 million fewer words than their advantaged peers in their first three years of life, and language proficiency is the foundation for successfully learning to read, and

WHEREAS, many programs exist which include parent training in the intervention to improve their children's readiness to learn and succeed in school, and

WHEREAS, our state constitution provides funding for public school programs K—12 from the land grant permanent fund,

BE IT RESOLVED: We urge the New Mexico legislature to put to a popular vote an amendment to the New Mexico Constitution which would increase funding for Pre-K educational programs from the Land Grant Permanent Fund, along with K—12 public school programs.

5. Infrastructure - High Speed Internet for All New Mexicans

Author/Submitting Organization – June Ferrill/Santa Fe County Platform and Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS: Sixty-one percent (61%) of New Mexicans living in rural areas lack access to advanced telecommunications including Internet.

WHEREAS: NM needs additional ways of attracting funding through private-public partnerships for spreading high-speed Internet across the state.

“Legislative action and regulatory moves can...help attract capital by facilitating coordination and collaboration among localities to develop innovative partnerships. This approach would improve the State's potential to capture private investment—and even more so if the State were to provide matching grants and financial support for projects seeking to enhance high-speed broadband services.” “Preliminary Policy Considerations for New Mexico Broadband for Business (BB4B) Study,” prepared by CTC Technology & Energy, for The Office of Broadband and Geospatial Initiatives, New Mexico Department of Information Technology, January 2017, pg. 2.

WHEREAS: In the 2017 and 2018 regular NM legislative sessions, bills were passed to help facilitate broadband deployment and enhancement, especially in rural areas and in both instances they were vetoed (one veto was overruled):

- Senate Bill 308 creates a broadband program through the NMRUSF, to be funded at a minimum of \$5 million per year for funding in NM rural areas. The NMRUSF is a non-public fund, created through carrier surcharges on customer wireless, wireline, and VoIP voice and other intrastate telecommunications services. *Fiscal Impact Report SB308, 3/13/17* “PRC to Facilitate Rural Broadband Service.” House Memorial 96 urges New Mexico’s congressional delegation to ensure that New Mexico gets its pro-rata share of stimulus money for all infrastructures, specifically broadband telecommunications infrastructure, and provides for a broadband task force (“representatives from governor’s office, the public regulation commission, Indian nations, tribes, pueblos, the New Mexico municipal league, the New Mexico association of counties and other interested parties”). *Fiscal Impact Report HM96, 3/8/17, “Federal Funding and Broadband Stimulus Funding”*
- SB53 provides for modernization of telecommunications laws in New Mexico to promote capital investment in New Mexico high-speed broadband Internet projects. <https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?chamber=S&legType=B&legNo=53&year=17>

WHEREAS: NM still faces obstacles in bringing broadband across NM:

- Costs are hard to estimate. <http://www.itscosts.its.dot.gov/its/benecost.nsf/DisplayRUCByUnitCostElementUnadjusted?ReadForm&UnitCostElement=Fiber+Optic+Cable+Installation+&Subsystem=Roads+Telecommunications+>
- NM still lacks state funding to match federal funding, since the New Mexico Rural Universal Service Fund (NMRUSF) is a non-public fund

BE IT RESOLVED: That the New Mexico Legislature makes providing affordable high-speed Internet access and infrastructure for all New Mexicans a priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the New Mexico Legislature seeks local, state, federal, and private funding for Internet infrastructure and that we New Mexicans lobby our Congressional representatives to seek funding for New Mexico

SOURCES:

Federal Communications Commission Broadband Progress Report, January 28, 2016, Appendix D.

<https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?chamber=S&legType=B&legNo=308&year=17>
<https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation>

6. Resolution Title: Physical Education for all Students

Author/Submitting Organization: Susan Selbin

WHEREAS regular physical activity in childhood and adolescence is important for promoting lifelong health and well-being and preventing various health conditions,

WHEREAS regular physical activity can help children and adolescents improve cardiorespiratory fitness, build strong bones and muscles, control weight, reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, and reduce the risk of developing health conditions such as heart disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, osteoporosis and obesity,

WHEREAS students who are physically active tend to have better grades, school attendance, cognitive performance (e.g., memory), and classroom behaviors (e.g., on-task behavior) and higher physical activity and physical fitness levels are associated with improved cognitive performance (e.g., concentration, memory) among students,

WHEREAS physical inactivity can increase the risk of becoming overweight or obese, increase risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease; type 2 diabetes; breast, colon, endometrial and lung cancers; and lead to low bone density, which in turn, leads to osteoporosis,

WHEREAS children and adolescents aged 6 to 17 years should have 60 minutes (1 hour) or more of physical activity each day,

BE IT RESOLVED that all students K-8 should participate in daily physical education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that adaptive physical education should be provided for students requiring a modified curriculum.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/physicalactivity/facts.htm>