

2010 AFSCME Questionnaire for State Candidates

This questionnaire is being sent to you by all of the members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. We represent about 12,000 bargaining unit members across New Mexico including state and university employees and home based childcare providers.

Council 18 also represents city employees in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, Espanola, Las Vegas, Silver City, Alamogordo, and Raton, and County employees in Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Dona Ana, Taos, and Grant Counties.

Please email your response to Carter Bundy at carterbundy@yahoo.com and Josh Anderson at joshandersonnm@yahoo.com or fax to 505-266-3155. You may also reach us by phone at 505-463-8499 (Carter) or 505-350-2200 (Josh) to arrange for hand delivery. We strongly recommend writing your responses after the questions in this document so that members can see the question and response right next to each other. Thank you.

AFSCME must receive a completed questionnaire for candidates, including incumbents, to receive our endorsement.

Candidate Name: Janice E. Arnold-Jones

Office Sought: Governor

Election Campaign Committee Name, Phone Number, and Address:

**Janice For Governor
2625 Pennsylvania NE, Suite 200
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 884-4238
Janice@JaniceforGovernor.com**

BASIC UNION RIGHTS

1. Do you support collective bargaining and the unions' right to negotiate a contract containing wages, benefits, hours, and conditions of employment?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments:

2. Each state employee in the AFSCME bargaining unit, whether a member or not, enjoys the benefits of union representation such as contractually negotiated improvements in wages, benefits and other terms and conditions of employment and representation in grievance and disciplinary matters.

Under New Mexico law, no one ever has to be a union member, but all bargaining unit state employees who receive these benefits do have to pay a partial amount to cover the negotiating and implementation of contracts. Without this "fair share", freeloaders would destroy unions as they've done in right to work states like Texas.

Current law prohibits automatic deduction of fair share fees from paychecks without a burdensome authorization process, even though there is no legal question that non-members must pay the fair share fee.

Do you support changing state law to allow for the automatic payroll deduction of fair share fees?

~~Yes~~

No

Additional comments

3. Will you support funding for state employees and university employees in the amount and manner as negotiated with the administration or Boards of Regents respectively?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments: *provided those commitments and budgets are based on realistic analysis.*

PRIVATIZATION

4. Do you oppose all privatization of publicly-provided services, including but not limited to Ft. Bayard Medical Center and Las Vegas Medical Center, veterans' facilities, correctional facilities (including state support for privatized county facilities like Clayton), revenue collections services, and DOT jobs?

~~Yes~~

No

Additional comments: *One of the problems of our economy is too many government positions. The disproportionate number of government to private sector jobs has contributed significantly to the revenue stress currently being experienced by the State of New Mexico. While the work may be relatively consistent, the contribution of government payroll taxes is only 1/3-1/4 of the revenue contribution of private sector businesses.*

5. Are there any areas of state-funded government that are currently administered/performed by public employees for which you would support privatizing?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments:

6. Are there any areas of state-funded government that are currently privatized that you would bring in-house?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments:

RETIREMENT

7. Do you pledge to defend the current defined benefit retirement system in PERA and ERA, and to resist any move to a defined contribution system?

~~Yes~~

No

Additional comments: *I will defend current benefits for current employees. We must look at changing the benefit and retirement system for employees going forward in order to guarantee solvency and our promise to our retirees.*

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

8. We are in a national recession, and revenues are down significantly from previous years. The state has already cut over \$700 million in funding for public safety, education, health care, and other core, vital services. State employees have already seen a pay reduction from furloughs and pension contribution swaps of almost three weeks worth of pay.

Meanwhile, the state continues to offer its very richest citizens a 40% tax break from the rates of the Johnson administration, and out-of-state corporations continue to avoid paying taxes by hiding profits in tax havens such as Delaware, the Cayman Islands, and Bermuda.

Before cutting agencies, universities, children's programs, and worker pay further, would you support each of the following?

- a. Creating another tax bracket for upper-income New Mexicans to restore some progressivity to our personal income tax.

Yes

~~No~~

Additional Comments: *Over the last 7 years our tax policy has been obliterated favoring "friends" rather than good tax policy that subscribe to the tenets of "low, broad, fair, equitable and easy to administer". The progressivity that once existed has been lost by the policies that favored friends and moved the tax system to one that is more complicated and vertical.*

- b. Suspending capital outlay for projects that have not yet been started.

~~Yes~~

No

Additional Comments: *Capital outlay projects are typically the development and maintenance of sorely needed infrastructure for New Mexicans. Most capital outlay projects are funded through the use, repayment, and reissuing of bonds. I am in favor of prioritized, well-planned projects and take into consideration the impact of local capital outlay projects in each community.*

c. Lobbying for and accepting additional federal stimulus monies.

Yes No

Additional Comments: *. . . to the extent that those monies might be available. I will always be cognizant that federal stimulus monies are dollars that our children and grandchildren will have to repay.*

d. Closing the corporate loopholes allowing companies to hide their profits (“combined reporting”).

~~Yes~~ ~~No~~

Additional Comments: *If corporate loopholes are being abused, I am not convinced that eliminating combined reporting will produce the results described by its proponents.*

e. Diverting a quarter cent of oil and gas taxes from the permanent fund to the general fund (not increasing taxes at all).

~~Yes~~ No

Additional Comments: *The Severance Tax Permanent Fund is an educational fund. The recent reductions against the corpus have already impacted the funds contributions to education.*

9. Will you pledge to make all of the above revenue enhancements permanent instead of phasing them out and creating another fiscal crisis in a few years?

~~Yes~~ No

Additional Comments: *I believe there are better approaches available to create a stable revenue base than the one described above.*

10. What, if any, other revenue enhancement ideas do you have that you would vote to implement prior to additional cuts, and how much revenue do you believe each one would generate?

Imposing additional taxes now hurts everyone! The best course is to make sure the State creates a favorable business climate to enable a stronger, more diverse economy.

11. Tax increment financing (TIF) was created as a tool to encourage infill and to fight blight. Recently, developers have started using TIF in “greenfield” (undeveloped) areas. Instead of sharing infrastructure costs with government, developers are now using TIF as a corporate subsidy that makes taxpayers foot much more of the entire bill for growth.

Recent greenfield TIF measures will cost the state, city, and county general funds billions of dollars over the next few decades. Do you oppose all greenfield TIF?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional Comments:

12. Will you support legislation prohibiting future greenfield TIF in New Mexico, from not only the state but also cities and counties?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments: *I am also opposed to SADs, PIDs, and other special assessment districts and mechanisms subsidized by taxpayers, most especially those without direct avenues of redress for those impacted by the tax district.*

HEALTH CARE

13. Do you support legislation that will ensure that every New Mexican has health coverage?

~~Yes~~

No

Additional comments: *The discussion should be about health care not insurance.*

14. Do you pledge to oppose any legislation that would put the burden of expanded health care on the public employees or retirees? (For example, some proposals would put the sickest New Mexicans who private companies won't insure into state or retiree health pools, driving up costs for public employees)

~~Yes~~

~~No~~

Additional comments: *With the passage of the Federal Health Care package and its volume of unknowns, it is impossible to make this pledge at this time.*

MINIMUM WAGE

15. Do you support indexing the state minimum wage to inflation?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments:

GOOD GOVERNMENT

16. Decades of legislation and different administrations have resulted in numerous contracts given to thousands of entities. That information is currently scattered throughout different agencies, but could fairly easily be compiled so that the current administration, legislature, and citizens would know how state funds are spent.

Would you support good government legislation requiring the state to compile and publicize a list of contracts over a certain dollar amount (commonly called a "contract expenditure budget")?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments:

17. There are literally hundreds of different tax breaks and loopholes in current New Mexico law that deprive the state of hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. Some breaks make sense, while others may be outdated or may never have made sense.

Would you support good government legislation providing the administration, legislators, and the public with an annual list of tax breaks, their major beneficiaries, and the estimated amount of revenue lost (commonly called a "tax expenditure budget")?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments:

18. Will you seek out and give weight to public employee union input on state Public Employee Labor Relations Board and State Personnel Office appointments?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments: . . . *with the understanding that all appointments will be based on competence and the ability to provide effective service to all New Mexicans.*

19. If elected would you be willing to meet on a regular basis with union representatives and consult with us on issues affecting public employees and other workers?

Yes

~~No~~

Additional comments:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

20. Are you now or have you ever been a union member? What are your proudest pro-labor accomplishments or moments? *No*

21. How do you believe you can win the election? How would you differentiate yourself from your opponents in this race?

I will win the election by one-to-one contact with the citizens of New Mexico. This year, the decision for elected leadership is personal. Experience is key! In addition to solid legislative experience, the depth and breadth of my life experiences has uniquely prepared me to be the right public servant to lead New Mexico from stagnation to a vibrant economy that embraces the world class technological and scientific advances developed right here in New Mexico. Last, I have a record of being fair, honest, open and treating our greatest assets, our State employees with respect.

22. What do you see as other major issues facing New Mexico, and how can you address them if elected?

Economy: New Mexicans are ready for an era of jobs, growth and prosperity. I am running for governor to bring a new and smarter economy to New Mexico. I will connect our vast natural, human and technical resources to transform our state into one that excels - - not one that fails.

Ethics: I am running for governor to transform state government into a public trust. From pre-filing legislation for the public to review to taking a web cam to my committees in the 2009 Legislative Session so people around New Mexico could see what was happening in their government, ethical behavior is a mindset.

Education: We can and must be at the top of the nation in math, science, and engineering by 2012. Our children are smart and must have access to knowledge. We have to open the door to a better, smarter, and more efficient way to educate New Mexico's future.

Energy: New Mexico is blessed with an abundance of energy resources – Natural gas, oil, coal, and wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and nuclear. Our challenge is to open the door to new exploration and production while developing transmission infrastructure capacity that will make New Mexico the number one exporter of energy in American.

23. Do you wish to receive a public endorsement from AFSCME? *Yes*

24. Tell us about yourself! What is your birthdate? Where were you born? Where did you grow up? What is your current occupation? Any previous occupations? What is your educational background? In what ways are you or have you been involved in the community? Feel free to add information about your family or other interests.

What is your birthdate? *March 20, 1952*

Where were you born? *Ft. Bragg, NC*

Where did you grow up? *I am an Air Force brat. Started school in Germany and England. Moved to New Mexico in 1963*

What is your current occupation? *Until taking a leave of absence to run for Governor, I managed the Albuquerque office of Parallax, Inc. for the past 10 years. During that same period I was elected and have served as the Representative, House District 24.*

Any previous occupations? *Navy wife, Mom, Soccer Coach, Freelance Writer, owner/writer/producer of audio-video production company, account executive for production company, radio, newspaper sales, banking, inside sales for GESCO (x2).*

What is your educational background? *Graduate of Albuquerque HS and the University of New Mexico*

In what ways are you or have you been involved in the community?
Representative, House District 24 2002 to present
Active supporter of NM Project 2012
Enlace Legislative Internship Program
Chr., New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center
Member, New Mexico Public Broadcasting Commission
Member, Bernalillo County Council of Health Councils
Sec. District 7 Coalition of Neighborhood Association
Member, Sandia High School Area Neighborhood Association Board
Chief Coach, American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 104
Served on Instructional Materials Commission
Committee member Boy Scout Troop 281
Member, former Sunday School leader, Heights Christian Church

JANICE E. ARNOLD-JONES
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Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 884-4238

<http://janiceforgovernor.com>

Janice is a four-term member of the New Mexico House of Representatives for District 24. She serves on the House Taxation and Revenue Committee and the Voters and Elections Committee.

Janice is a graduate of Albuquerque High School and the University of New Mexico. She was elected to serve as Vice President of the Associated Students of UNM (ASUNM). While an undergraduate, she served as a legislative intern for Republican members of the State Senate. Later, she was instrumental in the writing and passage of New Mexico's Criminal Sexual Conduct legislation.

Janice was honored as a recipient of the 2009 Lights of Liberty award by the Rio Grande Foundation, New Mexico's only conservative think tank, for introducing web cams into the legislature to bring greater public participation and greater access. She was nominated by NMPolitics.net for the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government's 2010 William S. Dixon First Amendment Freedom Award for her successful efforts to bring webcasting to the legislature.

Janice is currently employed by Parallax, Inc., utilizing her thirty years of diverse managerial, administrative and communications experience in that role. Her past business experience has included project management, business management consulting, research analyst, technical writer and audio/video writer/producer. She is actively involved with information technology, database development, network connectivity and the use of data in guiding management decisions.

Her community involvement includes serving as Chief Coach of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Region 104, where she developed an annual training and tracking regimen for over 500 coaches and 350 referees. This program was recognized by AYSO's former national director of coaching, Alan Meeder, as the best in the nation. Other community service includes serving as the Chair of the NM Poison and Drug Information Center, working with the NM Commission for Public Broadcasting and the Bernalillo County Council of Health Councils, as well as serving on her local and district neighborhood associations.

Janice is married to John L. Jones Commander, Retired USN, has two children and resides in Albuquerque.

**Representative, House District 24
2002 - Present**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Standing

House Taxation & Revenue Committee
House Voters & Elections Committee

Interim

New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight
Mortgage Finance Authority Oversight
Science Technology and Telecommunications Committee
Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy
Information Technology Oversight
Legislative Structure & Process Study Task Force
Capital Outlay Subcommittee
Legislative Council
Special
Blue Ribbon Tax Reform Commission
Elections Reform Task Force
<http://legis.stat.nm.us/lcs>

CSG Western Legislative Conference Policy Committee
Trade and Transportation – Vice Chair
Forum on Western Legislatures – Vice Chair
CSG Western Legislative Academy 2004
<http://www.csghost.org>

SLLF Emerging Political Leaders Program – 2006
SLLF Cyber Security for Legislative Leaders -- 2005
Community
2009 Rio Grande Foundation Lights of Liberty Award
New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center Foundation Chair
ENLACE Legislative Internship Program
New Mexico Commission for Public Broadcasting
Bernalillo County Council of Health Councils
Chief Coach, American Youth Soccer Organization, Region 104
Sandia HS and District 7 Neighborhood Associations

Personal

B.A. Speech Communication, University of New Mexico
Employed by Parallax, Inc. 1999 to present
Married to John L. Jones Commander, Retired USN
Two children