

1. Your name and district number:

Matt Dodson District 1

2. The overall goals of welfare reform are to move people from welfare to work, reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and encourage healthy marriages and family formation. TANF allows funds to be spent for marriage and couple relationship education, responsible fatherhood programs, financial education, and parenting programs. What benefits do you see for allocating 1-2% of the TANF budget in New Mexico for services to strengthen families?

When troubles occur within families, children blame themselves. Things that save families help children so I would support moving a couple percent of TANF funds to strengthen families.

3. Research has consistently shown that the social, educational, health and economic outcomes of children in healthy, two-parent families are better than those living in single-parent households. New Mexico has among the highest rates in the nation for teen pregnancies, school drop-outs, juvenile crimes and women and children living in poverty. New Mexico spends \$225 million every year dealing with the outcomes of families in crisis. If you are elected, what would you do to strengthen families?

Inequality is the real culprit to so many children living in poverty. I would raise taxes on the rich and spend the money in education and infrastructure (jobs) and raise the minimum wage.

4. The percentage of children in poverty in New Mexico is 26% higher than the national average. There are many factors contributing to this phenomenon including the fact that 45% of infants in New Mexico are born to teen parents. If you are elected, how would you reduce the number of teen pregnancies in New Mexico?

Obstinence only education does not work. I would educate our teens about sex and provide free birth control. This will reduce teen pregnancies.

5. Studies show that couple relationship education (e.g., conflict resolution, communication skills, understanding of gender differences, etc.) results in happier and healthier marriages. What programs and services are available to couples and families in your district?

I visited a group that helps families with autistic children. I need to get out and see what other services are available.

6. How can the NM Coalition for Healthy Families help you strengthen families in New Mexico?

Help me to get elected to raise the minimum wage and taxes to support the programs that help families.

7. Do you have any additional ideas or comments regarding New Mexico's families?

I support all families. Including the rights for gay couples to marry and adopt children.