

**1. Your name and district number:**

James (Jim) W Hall District 43

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**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?**

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I support the goals of welfare reform. I cannot support fencing off part of the general fund.

**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?**

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The best strengths leading to good families are a good education and good jobs. Education reform and teaching young people about the factors of success are a start. I also support earlier and more aggressive intervention whenever children are put at risk.

**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?**

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Appropriate sex education is part of the answer, as well as identifying and supporting teens at risk. Encouraging adoption may help (We are parents of adoptive children)

**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?**

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Depends on which part of the district one is in. Parts of District 43 have numerous programs and services, while other parts are lacking in services. Community health councils can play an important part by bringing together service providers to engage and support families.

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

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Prioritize a need, identify programs that work and those that don't, then push the programs that work and be accountable for results.

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

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We have an educational challenge, a values challenge, and a moral challenge that will not be solved by simply handing out more money. we must interrupt the cycle of poverty caused by children having babies.