

Equality Scorecard

New Mexico Gubernatorial - 2014 Primary



Attorney General Gary King



Senator Linda Lopez



Senator Howie Morales



Lawrence Rael



Alan Webber

CIVIL RIGHTS

Would you oppose an effort to overturn the State Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✓
 Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓

I have always stood for equality for all New Mexicans, and my voting record in the Legislature reflects that. As a result, I have been challenged by Republicans in my Senate District based solely on my supportive votes for Civil Unions in New Mexico, and I have always been proud to vote for equality and human rights for all.

Lawrence Rael ✓
 The court has already ruled on the issue, and largely the population is in favor of it. All people deserve the right to be happy.

Alan Webber ✓
 New Mexico has joined the enlightened states in recognizing everyone's right to marriage equality. I strongly oppose any reversal that would send us backwards.

Would you oppose legislation that allowed businesses to discriminate against LGBT people on the basis of religious beliefs?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✓
 Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓

Any level of discrimination in New Mexico is unacceptable, and I would actively work within my power to speak against about such a bill.

Lawrence Rael ✓
 It is the same discussion we have been having in this country for far too long, about when it is okay to discriminate, and it is the wrong discussion. There is no excuse for discrimination, religious or not.

Alan Webber ✓
 I would hope that in New Mexico, such a measure wouldn't even pass the legislature. But if it did, I would host a loud and proud "veto" ceremony.

HEALTH

Young gay and bisexual men of color represent 56% of new HIV infections, yet only 1% of federal funding is allocated to prevention in this population. Do you support higher funding levels and new prevention campaigns to help address this problem in New Mexico?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✓
 Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓

I support all pro-active measures to combat the spread of HIV and identify new ways to educate all New Mexicans about safe-sex practices. As a health care professional, the best prevention investment is to be pro-active.

Lawrence Rael ✓
 In this day and age, it's distressing that we have so many new HIV infections; we must be aggressive in reducing that number to zero--starting with the most vulnerable populations.

Would you support legislation or other public policy that requires state-based health insurance providers -- including Medicaid -- to cover hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and gender confirmation surgery?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✓
 Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓

This issue is more about quality of life than "dollars and cents." I would support any measure that helped to increase the happiness and fullness of a New Mexican's life. I believe that a person's gender identity is not about choice, but rather about supporting an individual's feelings and self-identity.

Lawrence Rael ✓
 I support the idea, but I would need more information from advocates and insurance companies to better understand the fiscal impact it would have on public dollars. Gender issues are not to be taken lightly and this is a discussion I look forward to having.

Alan Webber ✓
 This is both a human rights and a health care issue. HRT and gender confirmation surgery are cost-prohibitive for most people; requiring state-based health insurance providers to cover them is the only way many New Mexicans will have access to the health care services they need.

SAFE SCHOOLS

Would you support amending our state's bullying prevention statutes to meet best practice standards? Specifically: 1) enumeration of gender identity and gender expression as protected classes; 2) mandating regular reporting; and 3) measures to increase transparency and monitoring.

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✓
 Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓

Absolutely. Our education plan includes specific measures to protect communities of students who may face bullying in the schools. I would support any effort to make our classrooms and society safe for all students.

Lawrence Rael ✓
 Early intervention is key in ensuring that LGBTQ youth are safe in school, and get the support they need to stay--and thrive--in school.

Would you support legislation or other public policy that mitigates school discipline and zerotolerance policies that reinforce school pushout?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✓
 Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓
 Lawrence Rael ✓
 Alan Webber ✓

The impacts of school pushout are inherently discriminatory. Therefore, failure to make every conceivable effort to reduce those impacts is likewise discriminatory.

Would you support legislation or other public policy that allows transgender students to participate in athletics and activities, and access school-based facilities, according to their gender identity WITHOUT the requirement of changing their birth certificate?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✗
 Decline to State.
 As AG, I would have to study the law on this to formulate a cogent answer.

Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓

As a former coach, I can say I fully support inclusion for all of our students, and would make every effort to ensure our New Mexico students are able to participate fully in school-sponsored activities.

Lawrence Rael ✓
 Alan Webber ✓

An individual's gender identity is their true gender, and should be recognized as such, regardless of paperwork.

Would you support legislation that defines public accommodations, clarifying that public elementary and secondary schools are considered as such, and providing the statutory basis for student protection under the NM Human Rights Act and Non-Discrimination Laws?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✗
 Decline to State.
 Same as question 8, except that I have always tried to extend the reach of the NM Human Rights Act and believe it may be appropriate in this case. I don't know what other impact changing the definition might have that don't relate directly to this question.

Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓
 Lawrence Rael ✓
 Alan Webber ✓

I find it surprising (and disturbing) that this isn't already the case.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you support public education efforts encouraging responsible speech among elected and appointed officials and mass media, without limiting First Amendment rights?

Yes

Attorney General Gary King ✓
 Senator Linda Lopez ✓
 Senator Howie Morales ✓
 Lawrence Rael ✓
 Alan Webber ✓

It's a shame that we still have so far to go in realizing the very basic goal of mutual respect. But I will work to make New Mexico a leader in responsible speech.

If elected, what will you do to ensure the LGBT community and LGBT voices are present, honored, and visible in our State Government, in your administration's agenda, and throughout the state?

Attorney General Gary King
 I believe my record as AG and State Representative speak adequately to this question. I have always worked to assure that my employees and all New Mexicans are treated equally and that hiring decisions are based solely on job qualifications. During my tenure, the AGO has had a very diverse work force and I would continue to make sure that is the case for all State government under my administration.

Senator Linda Lopez
 As Governor of our state, I will provide leadership to change the negative discussion and provide information/education on the issues affecting the LGBT community. We must focus on the health of our communities, acceptance of all who live here, and provide opportunity for our youth to feel welcome and appreciated. Bullying will not be tolerated under my administration. I will attend (or a representative if my calendar is full) LGBTQ Roundtable meetings/seminars/conferences. My appointments to government positions will be representative of those who live here in NM!

Senator Howie Morales
 I have always been supportive of the LGBTQ community during my years in the New Mexico State Senate and I commit to continue that in the Office of Governor. I look forward to the opportunity to have representation from the LGBTQ community throughout New Mexico's various cabinet level positions, departments or agencies. The LGBTQ community is a vibrant part of New Mexico's cultural fabric, and I pledge to fully include this community during my tenure as Governor of New Mexico.

Lawrence Rael
 Throughout my time in public service, I have always been on the side of equality and as governor it would be no different. The only way to get anything accomplished in government is through cooperation and collaboration, as governor I would work with all invested parties to bring real satisfactory results on issues important to the LGBT community. I would work for and support policies to make life better for members of the LGBT community in all areas of New Mexico. Battling discrimination, and ensuring equal rights for all New Mexicans are key components in my plan for moving New Mexico forward, a plan that will go into action from day one.

Alan Webber
 New Mexico's diversity is one of our state's greatest strengths, and yet we don't celebrate or cherish it enough. Worse, we don't draw on that diversity as a means of achieving the brighter future we all imagine for ourselves. Our diversity is just one example of New Mexico's untapped potential, and my administration will be focused every day on honoring all types of diversity--including our LGBTQ communities. LGBTQ voices will be present within and throughout my office and all administrative agencies--with a network of specific agency liaisons where needed (e.g. PED, HHS, CYFD, Workforce Solutions, DPS, Corrections, SPD). But ensuring that LGBTQ voices and communities are visible and respected will require active collaboration, starting with my transition team. I will need your input and ideas for how to achieve these goals--both within my administration, and to guarantee that they are firmly entrenched for future administrations as well.

