



ALICIA EDWARDS

Grant County Commissioner, New Mexico
Elected 2016



WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT OR IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

Working with constituents and local advocacy organizations to do the education and find the common language that made it possible to get one conservative Republican, two conservative Democrats and two Progressives all on the same page for a unanimous vote on our resolution opposing the Holloman Air Force Base flyovers over the Gila Wilderness.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES AHEAD OF YOU AND FOR YOUR COMMUNITY DURING YOUR TERM?

I really don't think the decision-makers in Santa Fe get the level of challenge we face in rural New Mexico...the economic disparity and generational poverty, the associated family trauma and how all of that intersects and affects, directly or indirectly, our institutions, the health and well being of our people, and our capacity for community resilience.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

1. You can do it!

2. No matter what anyone tells you, knocking on doors is the single most important thing you can do in a campaign.

3. Elections are about ideology. Being an elected official is about governance. After the election, you are making decisions on behalf of everyone in your community, not just your district and not just the people who agree with you. You don't have to give up your values to listen respectfully and learn something from everyone.

IS THERE A CONSERVATION, CLIMATE OR DEMOCRACY-RELATED RULE, POLICY OR IDEA YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

A Green New Deal that specifically addresses the economic disparities of Rural America—that said, technology production and green energy manufacturing uses an inordinate amount of water, extraction materials and other planet-destroying inputs and outputs. Even a Green New Deal will have unintended consequences that we haven't even thought of yet. In reality, it seems like the only way to save our planet is to deindustrialize our economy and, to the best of my knowledge, there are no big ideas on how to do that floating around out there.

