



Rosalyn Fry
Mayor Pro Tem, Aztec, New Mexico
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What would you most like to accomplish as an elected leader?

Aztec, New Mexico, as part of the Four Corners region, is in a transitional period. Oil and gas has long fueled the economy and people have become dependent upon the good paying jobs provided by the industry. As our world changes and we face climate change and pollution caused by this industry, we must diversify and find ways to move our economy in a new direction. The revenue that supports our municipal budget as well as the state of New Mexico has long relied on the funds generated by oil and gas. There has been a steady decline in those revenues because of the changing markets and the transition to clean energy. The challenge is to find the balance between support for the needed revenue from the energy industry and looking ahead to new revenue sources. We search for the new economy that will provide jobs with a living wage. Working on this transition to clean energy is of great importance to me as I serve as the mayor pro tem of Aztec.

What are the biggest challenges ahead of you and for your community during your term?

The greatest challenge is gaining the support of our community to diversify our economy in our region. We must consider solar, wind and hydroelectric power as well as new industries such as tourism and manufacturing. Being a progressive in a conservative region certainly has its challenges in this endeavor.

What advice would you give someone considering running for office for the first time?

Seeking the position of city commissioner or other local offices is a worthy endeavor for citizens. Communities need their citizens to be interested in government at the local level. I would encourage those interested in serving to begin by attending commission meetings and to observe local government in action. There are always advisory boards that need interested

citizens to participate. Send in a letter of interest and get involved. Meet with your elected officials and share any concerns you have about your community. I also believe this is a great opportunity for retired individuals who can bring their professional and life experiences to an elected position. What an honor it is to serve the community of Aztec, New Mexico in the capacity of mayor pro tem. I look forward to continuing to make positive changes for Aztec and to serve those who elected me to this position.

Is there a conservation-related rule, policy or idea you'd like to see implemented at the local, state and/or national level?

The state of New Mexico is working on regulations that will decrease the methane gas cloud that hangs over the Four Corners region. I support these new regulations that will help clean the air in this part of New Mexico. We must join the rest of the nation in supporting clean energy. Aztec has its own electric company and a small percentage of our power comes from our own solar field. We are seeking land from the Bureau of Land Management to increase solar power for the city. Aztec is surrounded by BLM land on three sides. I hope to see this land acquisition completed during my tenure as commissioner.