

# The Candidates Answer

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The July/August issue of **NEW MEXICO ARCHITECTURE** asked our readers to send enclosed post cards to the two candidates for Governor of New Mexico. Both candidates responded by letter to each person who sent in cards. These answers, and the original questions, are reprinted below.

—JPC

## the questions:

1. Do you support the addition of an "Environmental Bill of Rights" into our state and national constitutions? Such a bill of rights would make a clean environment as fundamental a right as our treasured freedom of speech.
2. Considering New Mexico's limited water, and limited land area suitable for agricultural or residential purposes, what do you believe to be the optimum population for the state? (Optimum population is quite a different figure from a maximum possible population. The maximum figure would insure considerable environmental degradation.)
3. What will you do, if elected Governor, to work toward a stabilized population in this state, toward achieving that optimum population?
4. How will you work toward economic development without making unacceptable environmental sacrifices?

## the answers:

### Bruce King, Democrat

1. I do support the addition of an "Environmental Bill of Rights" into our state and national constitutions. However, in order for such constitutional enclosures to reach maximum effectiveness in protecting our environment, strong legislation spelling out penalties for violations should be adopted in conjunction with the "Bill of Rights."

2. Recent hydrology studies estimate there is presently available in New Mexico enough water to support a population of approximately 1,500,000 people with corresponding industries. This figure, which is 50% more than our present population, could be considered an optimum population. However, I think it is important to point out that we should not attempt to bring new people into the state for the sake of population growth alone.

3. Since pollution is a manifestation of population, it is obvious that we must be very selective in attracting new industry into New Mexico. Our first priority should be to create jobs for people

already in the state. As Governor I would not attempt to persuade industry to locate in New Mexico which would bring in its own labor force. In my judgment, such industries would compound our problems rather than render solutions.

4. Incoming industry must be selective, that is, compatible with our natural and human resources. The role of Governor in this area is that of representing the public interest; therefore, it is his responsibility to encourage only those industries which will protect our environment. Also the Governor must demand strict and non-political enforcement of the laws as well as recommend new and stronger legislation when necessary.

New Mexico today very probably has the cleanest air and water in the country. In my view, no responsibility of state government is more important than the responsibility to maintain these vital resources at the highest possible level of quality. This responsibility is a moral obligation we owe to the future inhabitants of this state and it is a policy of economic common sense for us today.

—Bruce King

## Pete V. Domenici, Republican

1. I favor the concept of maximum protection of our environment. Whether or not it could be done as part of a constitutional amendment state-wide or nationally is another question. It seems to me it would be very difficult to phrase language to cover the vast environmental protection needs and yet maintain what I think should be the approach to constitutions—that is, that the language must be very brief and clear. Most of the environmental protection that we all strive for is legislative in nature.

2. I do not believe anyone can establish an optimum population which will have continuing validity even for our state. Technology and new environmental control approaches, including water salvage and the like, make this so. "Experts" have indicated that their suggested optimum is anywhere from 1.5 to 2 million. I favor an active economy; that is, one that will provide a number of diversified, year-round jobs and a population growth that will keep our economy in tune with the national economy.

3. There is no way that one can positively stabilize our population. From the standpoint of non-tourist activity, we must cause enough clean industry—electronics, garment industry, or research-oriented, for example—so that we could truly offer our unemployed and underemployed economic stability and assure growth in this area consistent with the national economy. The protection of our environment should be handled by effective anti-pollution laws, both air, water, and ultimately noise, along with adequate planning for land use within our municipalities and the preservation of our natural environment consisting of open space, natural water resources, and the like.

4. I believe I have answered as part of question No. 3 my approach to this question. If we seek industry for both large and small communities that does not pollute either our air or our water and proceed with positive preventive programs, we will meet the challenge of preserving an acceptable environment. While many states are busy undoing their environmental decay, we have only to do—for ours is yet substantially better than most and can be retained and the few mistakes corrected.

—Pete V. Domenici

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