

What Do We Really Want, New Mexico?

Call it what you want, we have issues coming from our border with Mexico. Drugs flow freely into our state. From marijuana to heroin, meth to fentanyl, it's all easily accessible in each of our communities. Addiction runs rampant statewide.

Drug addiction leads to crime. Auto theft, burglaries, armed robberies, child prostitution.....we see it time and again. Crimes that should never be tolerated. Crimes that cost us a lot of money, even if we're not direct victims. Our insurance rates rise and our taxes increase. We are held accountable for the costs of treatment in rehab facilities, and incarceration of criminals.

Diseases that have been eradicated in the U.S. are being brought to the border. People with measles, mumps, polio like diseases and other maladies arrive seeking passage into our state in growing numbers.

Once these immigrants, legal or illegal, arrive in our state, the government is compelled to tax us in order to provide for their sustenance, by means of WIC, EBT, and other welfare programs. The costs just keep piling up.

Yet, with all of these obvious and clearly problematic issues plaguing our state, we continue to elect politicians who take exception to policy that would alleviate many of these challenges.

Deb Haaland made it clear during her campaign for congress, that she supports abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE agents work tirelessly to ensure the safety and wellness of all Americans, including congresswoman Haaland, yet she doesn't want them around to protect us. We elected her anyway.

Angelica Rubio, State Rep. from District 35, sponsored legislation in 2017 and 2018 restricting state land from being used to support any federal efforts to construct or replace any barrier on the border with Mexico. We re-elected her anyway, and she introduced it again during the current session.

Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Sen. Richard Martinez, and Sen. Linda M. Lopez have co-sponsored legislation to prohibit state agencies from helping federal

authorities in detecting, apprehending, arresting, detaining or prolonging the detention of persons facing deportation. We elected the three of them too.

At the top of the pile sits our newly elected Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham. Yep, that's right, we elected her, and not just barely. Now we're forced to sit back and watch as she pulls troops from our border, all the while declaring that "...I haven't seen anything to indicate that we have an emerging crisis here at the border...". Apparently she is blind to the facts associated with the aforementioned drugs, crime, disease and fiscal calamity.

We seem content to be bludgeoned by the same politicians with the same policies, since we continue to elect them to office. Is this what we really want? Do we really want drugs and crime in our streets? Do we really want re-introduced diseases? Do we really want more and more financial burden placed upon us?

We New Mexicans need to be more prudent with our vote! We need to pay attention to what policies the candidates represent, before we rush out and vote for things we don't really want! And once elected, we need to hold our officials responsible to securing the health and safety of New Mexicans first, rather than doing something as a political statement, without regard to putting their electorate in peril.

Let's start evaluating our elected officials since now, and all of the new candidates as they announce their candidacies. We deserve nothing less than leaders who put New Mexicans first!

Bob Gore

Tijeras