

Section 1: Candidate and Campaign Information

Candidate name:

Abby Foster

Campaign website and/or other social media:

<https://www.abbyfornewmexico.com/>

Are you currently an elected official?

Yes No

If yes, position and term(s) held:

N/A

Title of office you are seeking:

NM State Representative

District (if applicable):

27

Type of election (primary, general, etc.):

Primary

Party registration:

Democratic

Why are you running?

I'm an attorney, former legislative analyst, and I'm a mother of two raising a family in District 27. My career has centered around public service and helping others. I've helped lawmakers understand policy issues, represented children and adults with disabilities as Guardian ad Litem, represented families, and worked on policy for the City of ABQ. I've also spent a lot of time and energy knocking doors for candidates and causes I believe in. My personal outreach is what shaped my top priorities. I'm running because over the last few years, I've spent a lot of time knocking doors and speaking with my neighbors. Which made it clear what we need change in our district: housing that families can afford, strong public schools and better support for children, and healthcare that is accessible and affordable. I'm also running because our current Representative is not in alignment with the needs or values of our district. Last year, Marian Matthews was the most absent member of the House, a record she barely improved this year. This isn't just a matter of failing to show up when we need her; it reflects a broader pattern. Marian often says the right things, but when it comes time to vote, she often votes against our interests, and when she doesn't want to take a position, she simply doesn't show up. She's done this often enough to reveal a clear pattern of avoiding accountability.

Please briefly describe your qualifications and experience that have prepared you to serve in this position.

At the Roundhouse, I served as a floor analyst, where I reviewed bills, tracked policy details, and helped lawmakers understand complex issues/bills. My work there gave me a strong understanding of how the legislative process works and what it takes to move policy forward. I've also worked as an attorney and Guardian ad Litem, advocating for adults with disabilities and children, work that has taught me how to navigate difficult systems, listen carefully, and fight for our most vulnerable population. In addition, I worked on policy for the City of Albuquerque, which gave me experience thinking through how laws and decisions affect people on a local level. I also have a ton of experience with mediation, which has already proven effective in my work as an attorney and candidate and will help me continue establishing relationships and pass legislation in Santa Fe.

Why are you asking for an endorsement from CWA?

I support unions and the right to unionize. I also support collective bargaining. I want change for my district. We need a representative that will actively support and show up for unions and working class families. I'd be honored to earn your support!

List any past activities with CWA.

I haven't done anything with CWA before but I picketed last year with the Creamland Union Workers during some of my lunch breaks last year. I fully support unions!

List any elected or appointed office you have held.

I don't have any publicly elected offices but I have served as a Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County, I am a State Central Committee member of the Democratic Party of New Mexico and a Ward Chair in my district.

List any relevant organizations of which you are a member.

N/A

What are the main issues that you hope to address if elected?

My top three are:

1. Affordable housing: supporting rent control in mobile home parks, creating incentives for multifamily housing, expanding sustainable housing options for people of all ages, and requiring new housing projects to remain affordable by law.
2. Child wellbeing, schools, and CYFD: support safe schools and equitable access to education, reform CYFD so it works better for children and families, improve staff retention in schools and child-serving systems, build stronger pipelines from higher education into CYFD jobs and related fields, and proper heating and cooling for public schools.
3. Healthcare Access: address doctor shortages across the state, strengthen rural healthcare access and funding for rural clinics, push back on monopoly insurance practices, support Paid Family and Medical Leave, provide up to 12 weeks of care for a close family member, not only for pregnancy.

Another priority that is focused solely on my district is pledging my first term capital outlay to projects solely in my district and only public projects.

What are your legislative priorities that would benefit working families in your district/state?

A large part of why I am running is to unseat the incumbent, Marian Matthews. Many of her votes are anti-democratic and don't support working families, if she votes at all. Partly because she believes in how she votes and partly because she often takes money from big corporations and outside interests. I have a large list of legislative priorities that I would love to sponsor or co-sponsor, mostly all of them have been opposed by my opponent at one point or another. The biggest is Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Section 2: Statement of Principles

The Freedom to Choose a Union

As an elected official or candidate for office, I am committed to making our community a better place to live and work. I believe that unions contribute to the economic vitality of our country by playing a key role in making and maintaining good quality jobs that are essential to creating and sustaining thriving communities. I respect the right of every working person to pursue equality, opportunity, a voice on the job and a better life by forming a union. I understand that the decision to join a union should be the free choice of an employee, absent employer coercion. I believe that employers, who interfere with, harass, threaten, or fire workers for trying to form a union—or who deliberately manipulate the legal system to prevent or delay organizing—are harming not only their employees, but our entire community. Such tactics have the effect of denying workers their basic human right to organize and bargain collectively, and drive down standards for the community.

Which of the following actions will you take to support all workers?

I will walk on picket lines and attend rallies in support of workers.

Yes No

I will work with CWA Locals to draft and carry bills on our Legislative priorities as outlined in Section 3.

Yes No

I will directly and publicly promote neutrality and voluntary recognition with decision makers where organizing efforts are ongoing.

Yes No

I will directly and publicly urge employers to negotiate contracts in good faith and will offer to serve as an intermediary when requested.

Yes No

I will directly and publicly negotiate in good faith with the employees in my own organization.

Yes No

I will publicly support workers' efforts in forming a union and bargaining contracts.

Yes No

I will commit to use a local area union print shop for all my campaign material. As a labor union, we require campaign material to carry the Union "Bug."

Yes No Please submit your campaign material to us with this questionnaire.

I will support CWA workers during a labor dispute.

Yes No

If you have in the past, please explain how you supported CWA workers during the dispute.

I haven't protested or picketed with CWA but I did picket with the Creamland Union Workers during some of my lunch breaks last year.

Section 3: Legislative Goals

CWA's National Legislative Goals

As human rights are coming more under attack Federally, how will you protect the basic human rights of the residents of New Mexico?

By defending access to education, healthcare, housing, and public services. I will support education programs that ensure families know their rights, which will help against discrimination and exploitation. I will fight for our privacy by introducing protections against ICE and false matches through imaging technologies. I will be a huge contrast from my opponent who has voted against fundamental rights like freedom of speech. Employee Free Speech Act, HB 84 (2025).

Will you use your platform to oppose any anti-worker bills in NM and the broader community?

Yes No Please explain why or why not
I support protecting our workers.

Will you fight and oppose any legislation that tries to impose Right to Work in New Mexico?

Yes No Please explain why or why not
I strongly believe in collective bargaining and will fight to protect it.

Will you fight to overturn the Janus Decision and/or fight the impacts of the Janus Decision on public employee labor unions in New Mexico?

Yes No Please explain why or why not
Non-union workers still benefit from unions!

Do you support a Living Wage for all workers in New Mexico? (livingwage.mit.edu/states/35)

Yes No Please explain why or why not and what you believe a living wage for 2025 is in New Mexico.
I believe the living wage needs to keep up with inflation. I support more than just a living wage but also a comfortable wage that does more than allow working people to survive but thrive in our state. Around \$20 is what I believe a living wage is but like I said I'm more than willing to support more than that. I agree with the wages you provided in the link above and would be willing to ask for even more so there's some negotiation room.

Do you support the Right to Strike for all workers? Currently public workers, base workers, and airline workers do not have the right to strike in New Mexico.

Yes No Please explain why or why not
Everyone deserves the right to stop bad faith negotiations and strike from work. There are so many jobs that would not only benefit from the right to strike but from unionizing. Especially airline workers!

Will you advocate for and support annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases for State and Public Employees that meet or exceed the rising cost of living each year that you are in office? CWA represents over 6,000 State and Public Employees across New Mexico, whose salaries are set either directly or indirectly by the Legislature. State Employees are entirely dependent on the Legislative “raise,” which should more appropriately be called a COLA. Per our calculations, state employee wages have fallen at least 30% behind the cost of living over the past 20 years.

Yes No Please explain why or why not

We need to bring state employee wages up to the 2026 cost of living. If CWA and other unions/orgs agree I am willing to sponsor legislation to appropriately call the legislative raise COLA. It could be a good start.

Will you fight to defend existing workers’ pensions, and pledge to oppose any attacks on these hard-earned benefits?

Yes No Please explain why or why not

I am committed to defending and supporting existing workers’ pensions. We need to implement a minimum that ensures retirees see increases even in years when returns aren’t strong. Any surplus could be earmarked for COLA increases rather than going into the general fund. OR adjust the COLA formula to better track inflation metrics rather than only relying on investment returns or depending on the legislature, something I’d like to hear more from you all on so that we can get it right.

Will you sign our petition in support of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act’s Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program and encourage your colleagues to do the same? BEAD provides a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that everyone has access to high-quality broadband internet connections. The federal law contains strong guidelines for building broadband but gives states options on how to implement the buildout. Communications Workers of America members are working to make sure these funds are spent wisely so the job is done correctly and safely with a skilled and trained workforce, not shoddy contractors. When broadband construction goes wrong, there are serious consequences. We need labor standards across the country to keep communities and workers safe. If companies use contractors with bad labor records and don’t train their technicians on OSHA safety standards, they should not qualify for federal funding to do the build out. (buildbroadbandbetter.org)

Yes No

Do you accept corporate PAC money?

Yes **No** Please explain why or why not

A big part of why I am running against Marian Matthews is because she accepts corporate PAC money and she often votes to protect lobbyists and corporate interests. This includes major Trump donors and pharmaceutical companies.

Are you a member of ALEC?

Yes **No** Please explain why or why not

I don’t agree with them.

CWA New Mexico Legislative Council Goals

Will you support the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act (PFMLA), as outlined on the PFMLA Coalition website? (nmpfml.org)

Yes No Please explain why or why not

It's actually on my website. PFMLA is another huge reason why I'm running against my opponent. She has consistently voted against PFML and introduced a gutted version of it to save face. I support it because it's important for working and middle class families to survive!

Do you support telework/remote work, paid parental leave, increased annual leave, and a living wage to improve public worker recruitment and retention? This was proposed in HB 264 in the 2025 Session. (www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0264.pdf)

Yes No Please explain why or why not

We live in 2026, if we want strong employees that enjoy their job, we need to pay them well and offer attractive benefits packages. If public sector employers want to attract workers with families, they need to offer as much flexibility as possible.

Do you support shortening the probationary period for State Employees? Currently the probationary period is 1 year and employees on probation do not get equivalent benefits to career employees. New employees frequently do not complete probation due to the inability to utilize alternative work schedules, parental leave, and fitness time. A shortened probationary period bill was introduced in HB 129 in 2025. (www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/Amendments_In_Context/HB0129.pdf)

Yes No Please explain why or why not

There's no real reason for a probationary period to be more than six months. A year is a long time to invest in a job and workers should absolutely be entitled to benefits after six months which is practiced in some private sector jobs.

Would you support and/or carry a bill guaranteeing breaks for New Mexico workers? New Mexico employers currently are not legally required to provide either paid or unpaid breaks.

to workers

Yes No Please explain why or why not

Yes, everyone deserves breaks. Two fifteen minute paid breaks and up to one unpaid hour for lunch should be required. I would be willing to support more unpaid breaks and would be interested in talking more about it!

What legislation do you think could be introduced to improve the effectiveness of the New Mexico State Legislature?

I am a big believer in professionalizing the legislature. A large part of that is the constitutional amendment to pay them a salary, which needs to come with the full suite of benefits that state employees receive. A paid legislature will attract working age people and candidates from diverse backgrounds that better reflect the makeup of New Mexico. After we amend the constitution to pay the legislature, we can talk about lengthening the legislative sessions. So many bills and important issues get put off for years because the legislature runs out of time. I think one of the issues we have in the legislature is that because we don't pay them, many legislators treat their work as a hobby, not a job. We have real challenges in New Mexico, we cannot afford a legislature of amateur hobbyists.