

Section 1: Candidate and Campaign Information

Candidate name:

Lori Martinez

Campaign website and/or other social media:

www.lori4workingfamilies.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):

37

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

Primary

Party registration:

Democratic

Why are you running?

I'm a social worker of 23 years with a wealth of experience. Community members have asked me to run, and I see it as one of the best ways I can continue serve Las Cruces I've made Las Cruces my home for the past 30 years. New Mexico is in my blood, working people are in my heart and policy advocacy has been the work of my hands for most of the last decade. Our state legislature is one of the ways we can protect New Mexicans from the harmful actions of the Trump administration.

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

My lived experience being raised through kinship care and navigating child- and family- serving systems as a social worker means I have a keen understanding of systems and how they impact people's lives. As a nonprofit leader, I've collaborated statewide on legislative issues. As a single working mom, I'm familiar with the challenges working families face because I've lived them and fought for better working conditions for people.

Why are you asking for an endorsement from CWA?

CWA's membership spans beyond communications workers – it includes social workers, rank-and-file public sector workers, higher ed, healthcare and more. In solidarity with the workers who run our social sector, public sector, education sector, airlines sectors are more – I would be honored to stand on union values and uplift demands of unionized workers at the roundhouse. I'm running to represent working people, including unions. Organized labor wins working people fair wages, working conditions, and necessary benefits. As a legislator, I will be an ally to organized labor

List any past activities with CWA.

I haven't head the pleasure of meeting with a CWA local in southern New Mexico, but I warmly invite this possibility! I'd like to start building relationship with your locals and listening to the needs and dreams of each community.

List any elected or appointed office you have held.

N/A

List any relevant organizations of which you are a member.

Kids First Coalition (a statewide coalition of Early Childhood organizations and advocates doing policy work)
Paid Family Medical Leave Coalition

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

Healthcare for all, a robust cradle to career education system and improving economic and quality of life conditions for the working class.

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

We came so close to passing Paid Family Medical Leave two years ago. I am determined to help get it across the finish line. As part of the Kids First Coalition, I have been advocating for dignified wages for early childhood educators for years. Most recently that has meant advocating and lobbying for a wage and career ladder, which will also ensure universal child re in New Mexico is sustainable. I'm committed to this, too. We need to prioritize assistance to small businesses and increase union labor in state contracts.

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 will always stand on the side of workers, not big business. Our state needs more economic development, but not at the expense of our community members. When CWA approaches my office with concerns around disputes with an employer, I am here to listen to workers first and foremost.

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?

I will work to take legislative action to protect the residents from unconstitutional and harmful ICE activity. I will fight for everyone's right to due process, and fight to protect our LGBTQ community, reproductive health access, and our immigrant families and friends.

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

Yes. I would be honored to use my platform to amplify dirty deals that sell out 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

RTW harms unions and robs families of union-won benefits. RTW takes away the right to a union.

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

Janus reduces union power through making paying union dues optional. A reduction in union dues decreases union's strike & defense funds, which means fewer union resources to fight poor working conditions.

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.

Too many New Mexicans live day to day in survival mode. It keeps our state from thriving. Living wages are a protective factor against so many community health outcomes. We work against our own self interests when we oppose living wage measures.

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

It's ridiculous that our workers had to give up the right to strike in order to have the right to bargain.

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

Folks who work for the state or public sector do so for a public good, and it's not right for these workers to get shorted on their paychecks each month, year after year. Our state should prioritize supporting these workers so that New Mexicans can receive high quality service delivery, which is only possible when workers are well supported.

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

To this day my mother continues to benefit from a pension my father's union won through collective bargaining. I know how meaningful hard-fought union benefits are to working families. I believe union-won benefits should be protected.

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

Citizens United was one of the worst laws our country ever passed, and has enabled mass corruption in our electoral processes across the nation. I'm a social worker and organizer being supported by every day people, not corporations. Corporate PACs maintain the status quo of worker oppression in many areas, including safe working conditions, immigrant detention, privately owned prisons, etc. That is not in alignment with my values. I'm proud of where my donations have been coming from- every day people, labor unions, statewide c4 organizations, other legislators and local elected officials who I've built working relationships with over the years.

Are you a member of ALEC?

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

Nationwide, ALEC is responsible for legislation that makes things harder for working people. In New Mexico, one such legislation is our state's ban on rent control, which increases the price of housing. Increased price of housing effectively leaches power from the working class by making basic needs more expensive.

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

Absolutely. In my role as executive director of nonprofit Ngage NM, I (and colleagues) have been active on the Paid Family Medical Leave Coalition for years.

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

Yes. I am an advocate for paid family medical leave and a believer in the benefits of telework. Living wages are a key priority for me and I am interested in partnering with unions to come up with legislation that will support livable wages as a standard that pairs with other benefits already won in union contracts.

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

In my experience, long probationary periods are often a cost cutting measure by employers, with little demonstrated impact on worker effectiveness.

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

Guaranteed breaks support worker wellbeing. Workers are more than the job they get done – they are people first. I would be interested in supporting break policies that are informed by unions in the state.

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

We need to get serious about modernizing the legislature. In November, voters will decide if legislators start getting paid. We need to re-examine the frequency with which our legislature meets and get rid of the 30 day budget session where only the governor decides which bills are heard. This does not serve the public interest. We need broader transparency in our state budget process.