

Spring 2020



ELECTIONS 2020

Prescription for New Mexico's Future

**An interview
with Dr. Martin
Hickey**

CANDIDATE FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 20

New Mexicans stand together

In an unprecedented time of pandemic and economic disruption, people all over our state are coming together to support each other, to make sure that when we get to the other side of these trying times, our state emerges strong, united, and healthy.



Dr. Martin Hickey knows a thing or two about bringing people together to overcome big challenges. He's done it his entire career in public health and on the front lines of medicine.

Right now, the State Senate makes a lot of decisions about our health care, but there's not a single doctor in the chamber. Dr. Hickey's election would change that. Here, Dr. Hickey talks about how his medical background makes him the right choice for State Senate District 20.

Q: State legislators are always informed by the experiences they've had before going to Santa Fe. Talk a bit about your background in medicine.

Dr. Martin Hickey: I've always been proud about being able to play a role in making health care more efficient, affordable, and of greater quality for lots of New Mexicans. I've been a Chief Medical Officer, I've been a public health leader, I've been a health system administrator, and I'd be the only doctor in the Senate. I'm confident I can take these experiences and fix what's broken in our health care system.

Q: As a doctor, you probably have a unique perspective on the coronavirus. What do you want people to know?

Dr. Martin Hickey: This coronavirus pandemic is real and deadly serious. While everyone is doing their part with hand washing and staying at home, we do know that New Mexico will see more cases in the very near future. I'm volunteering to work with state logistical task forces and at UNM Medical Center, and I applaud the significant preparations Governor Lujan Grisham and her staff are putting in place. But even with these, it's going to be a challenge, especially in our rural communities. So please take the stay-at-home advice seriously to keep you and your family safe. This will significantly help to keep the healthcare system, including doctors and nurses in Albuquerque, from being overwhelmed.

Q: The state is facing a budget hole because of the coronavirus's economic impact and some are talking about cutting state services. What's your position on that?

Dr. Martin Hickey: The coronavirus crisis has shown us that our health care system and our first responders need more support, not less. While we may have some tough decisions to make as we deal with the effects of the economic shutdown, I will fight against any cuts to our vital public services and to the working men and women of New Mexico who deliver them.

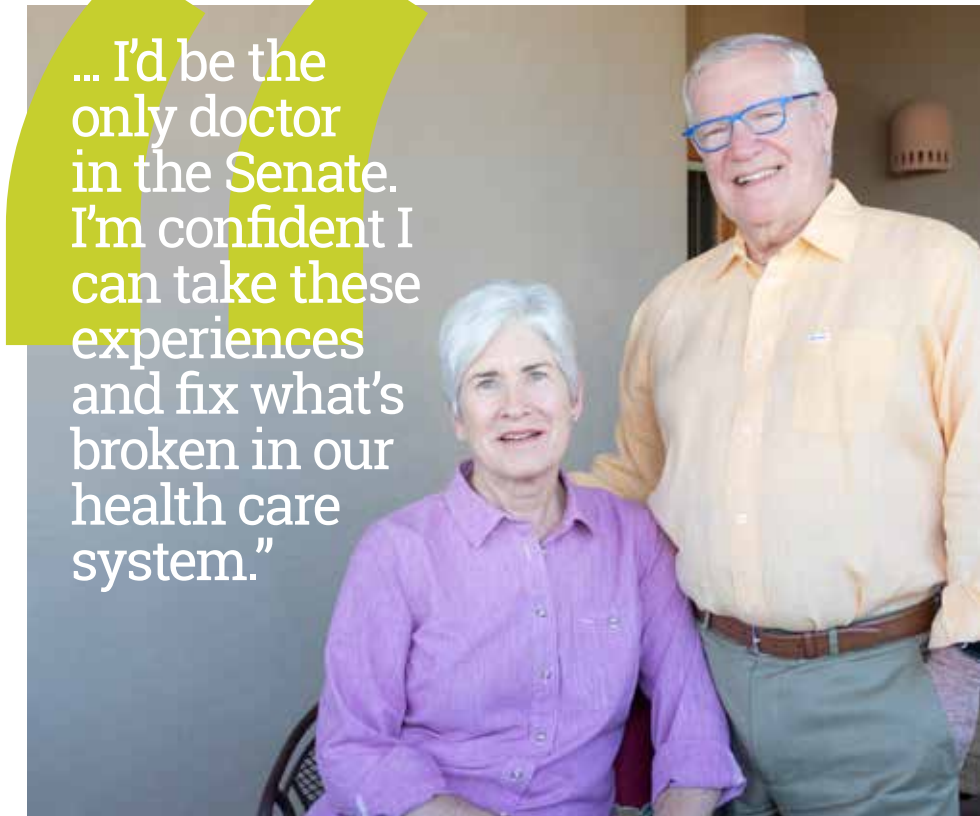
Have a question for Dr. Hickey? He'd like to hear from you. You can reach him at (505) 900-1841, or by email at martinforsd20@gmail.com. To learn more about Dr. Hickey and for COVID-19 resources, visit www.martinhickeyfords20.com

Q: Getting back to health care, what's your top priority there?

Dr. Martin Hickey: Primary care and behavioral health access. At the top of my priority list is working with other legislators to create a program to recruit and retain more primary care health providers to New Mexico. Also, we need to eliminate co-payments for generic chronic disease drugs, as well as behavioral medications and visits.

Another issue that I think can be seen from a public health perspective has to do with the widespread damage related to assault weapons. I'm a strong supporter of an assault weapons ban.

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Q: How important do you think it is to protect a woman's right to choose?

Dr. Martin Hickey: Very important. As a doctor, I don't think politicians should ever be involved in these kinds of decisions. A woman's decisions about her pregnancy need to always be left to her and her physician.

COVID-19 resources available at
www.martinhickeyforsd20.com

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Inside:

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Doctor, public health
advocate, and health
care leader