

NEW MEXICO

priorities

elections 2020

Moving
forward in
challenging
times

Q&A with

**Senator
Mimi Stewart**



It's time to take stock of what's important



At a time when we're all concerned about the current coronavirus crisis — and how it might affect life in Albuquerque in the future — it seems like a good time to get our priorities in order.

Our Senator Mimi Stewart's approach in the State Legislature has always been based on listening to her constituents and taking decisive action to achieve their priorities. It's one reason why she's earned the votes — and confidence — of local people for so many years. That's why her peers elected her to serve as the Majority Whip of the State Senate.

Below, Senator Stewart shares her take on the current crisis and talks about her priorities for today and for tomorrow.

People are concerned about the coronavirus. What thoughts do you have for them?

Senator Mimi Stewart: I think one important thing all of us can do is take time to take care of one another. Call your family, your friends, your grandparents. Be there for them to reduce the isolation they may be feeling and help them work through the many challenges — medical and otherwise — we're all confronting right now.

Staying with health care, what have your priorities been in that area?

Senator Mimi Stewart: Something that affects a lot of families in Albuquerque is the increasing cost of prescription drugs. I helped pass the law making it easier for New Mexicans to get lower-cost medications from Canada. I'm hopeful that this will make an impact.



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You're a retired teacher. How do you think New Mexico is doing on education these days?

Senator Mimi Stewart: Better. For too long, a lot of politicians spent their time in Santa Fe attacking public schools and trying to cut funding. Recently, we've reversed that trend and increased school funding, expanded early childhood education, and beefed up early reading programs. Doing more on education will be high on my list of priorities when we return to Santa Fe.

Families in your district are concerned about how the coronavirus affects their household finances. What can the Legislature do to help?

Senator Mimi Stewart: First of all, we have to make sure that everyone who's filing for unemployment in New

Mexico, or accessing any other emergency services, gets as quick a response as possible and gets the help they need. Next, we need to continue our efforts to grow and strengthen our state economy, including by taking advantage of our unique climate to increase the number of people who work in wind and solar jobs.

Have a question for Mimi? She'd like to hear from you. You can reach her at (505) 275-2355, or by email at SenMimiStewart@gmail.com



Priorities are everything.

Inside: An interview with your State Senator

