

Meeting Minutes: Adelante Progressive Caucus

Meeting Details

Category	Information
Date/Time	Started at 6:30 PM
Platform	Video/Audio Conference (Zoom)
Chair	Colton Dean
Attendees	Scotti Romberg (Vice Chair), Daniel Fay, Carol Trujillo-Fay, Sophia (Guest), Carol Courtney, Elene Gusch
Guest Speakers	Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Matt Dodson

I. Call to Order & General Updates

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Colton Dean at 6:30 PM.
- Attendees briefly discussed the Environmental Justice Caucus meeting from the previous night.

II. Guest Speaker: Maggie Toulouse Oliver (Candidate for Lt. Governor)

- **Vision and Role:** Maggie Toulouse Oliver, the current Secretary of State, shared her vision to be an active, advising partner to the next governor to prevent the state from backsliding.
- **Economic Diversification:** She emphasized the need to transition extraction industry companies into renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal) to diversify the economy and reduce reliance on federal funds.

- **Top Administration Priorities:** If elected, she wants to overhaul the state's economic development approach, address severe staff burnout within the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD), and establish New Mexico as a premier women's healthcare research hub to combat high maternal mortality rates.
- **Water Infrastructure:** Acknowledging the state's lack of a cohesive water plan, she proposed using state windfall funds to host a water infrastructure summit to prioritize critical repairs.
- **Education Reforms:** She advocated for updating base teacher pay to match inflation, investing heavily in classroom support staff, and providing student loan forgiveness for educators. She also criticized cookie-cutter data collection and evaluation models for teachers and students.
- **Legislative Modernization:** To counter corporate lobbying, she supported the constitutional amendment for paid legislators, increased internal staff resources, and a ban on corporate campaign contributions.

III. Guest Speaker: Matt Dodson (Candidate for U.S. Senate)

- **Platform Overview:** Dodson introduced himself as a Democratic Socialist running in the primary against incumbent Senator Ben Ray Lujan. His primary platform includes universal healthcare, removing money from politics, taxing the wealthy, and free college. He stated he takes no corporate or AIPAC money.
- **Critique of Incumbent:** Dodson criticized Senator Lujan for his past handling of healthcare bills, voting for cryptocurrency legislation, and failing to label the situation in Gaza as a genocide.
- **Water & Utilities:** He argued that dedicating 50% of the Colorado River Basin's water to alfalfa farming must end. He suggested using federal funds to repair dams as a jobs program and advocated for publicly owning natural monopolies (like utilities) while strictly regulating the water and energy usage of incoming data centers.
- **Immigration & ICE:** Dodson called for the complete abolition of both ICE and the Patriot Act. He proposed legislation requiring that any detained individual must see a judge with representation within two weeks or be released, which he argued would effectively end detention camps.
- **Money in Politics:** He suggested that Congress could pass a law stating corporations are not people and money is not speech. He noted that Congress could utilize Article 3, Section 2 of the Constitution to explicitly prevent the Supreme Court from striking down

this legislation.

- **Technology & Privacy:** Discussing Section 230 and internet safety, Dodson favored strict opt-in privacy laws to limit corporate data harvesting. He suggested creating a specific .XXX domain to isolate adult content for easier parental controls and advocated for treating internet providers more like heavily regulated public utilities.

IV. Adjournment

- Chair Colton Dean thanked Mr. Dodson for his time and adjourned the meeting shortly after 8:03 PM.