

Nordquist not the right candidate

By Deborah Davis | Oct 27, 2018

Much ado has been made about Andrea Romero, the Democratic nominee for state House District 46, encompassing the Pojoaque Valley and a portion of the city of Santa Fe. But not much has been reported about her opponent, write-in candidate Heather Nordquist, who also is a Democrat.

Having followed Nordquist, her nonprofit, Northern New Mexico Protects, and her behavior during the New Mexico primary election, I think it's fair to say that she is hardly the kind of person we need in the state Legislature.

Heather Nordquist was Rep. Carl Trujillo's right-hand person in the June Democratic primary (Romero easily defeated Trujillo, 55 percent to 45 percent). After Romero won the election, Nordquist said this of the voters and their decision to elect Romero, "You deserve the self-serving grifter you voted for," and continued with, "Alternatively, if you stayed home and didn't vote, you deserve her, too."

Unable to handle Trujillo's defeat, she first worked to recruit an independent candidate and then threw her name in as a write-in candidate to challenge Democratic nominee Romero in the general election this November.

While Democrats — even those who gracefully lost in primaries — are fired up for the November election to turn back Donald Trump's horrendous policies, Nordquist said she quit her post with the New Mexico Democratic Party because she "is not good at faking enthusiasm." She then went on to join forces with the Republican Party of New Mexico to oppose Democrat Maggie Toulouse Oliver's straight-ticket voting choice — the only Democrat to do so. Nordquist's closest allies recently starred in a slick video produced by Republican oil magnate Harvey Yates' political action committee, in which Nordquist's cronies criticize "progressives" and all but urge Northern New Mexicans to vote against Democratic candidates up and down the ballot.

She started name-calling our United States senators as well, berating Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall as "useless as tits on a boar," in a disagreement over easement rights in Northern New Mexico. Because of her allegiance to Rep. Trujillo, she has attacked AFSCME, the public sector labor union, and Planned Parenthood, staunch defenders of a woman's right to choose.

The straw that really breaks the back for me, though, is Nordquist's online bullying of Laura Bonar, the lobbyist who courageously came forward with her allegations of sexual harassment against Carl Trujillo. She targeted Bonar's employer, an animal welfare organization, and her colleagues and friends. Nordquist's aggressive anti-woman behavior against Bonar is no different than what we see happening nationally, and most recently in the Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court hearing — and it keeps women from coming forward to speak out against abuse.

Heather Nordquist has forsaken her Democratic principles and sense of decency. That's not the kind of character we need (or want) in the Legislature, not when so much is at stake for our state to push back against Trump's policies.

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