

**Santa Fe Living Wage Network
Candidate Questionnaire, April 2004**

Candidate Name: Thomas Blog

Office Sought: County Commission, District 2

Party: Democratic

1. Do you support the City of Santa Fe's Living Wage Ordinance, in its present form?

Yes.

Comments: In a different location, I probably would not support it. However, my experience in business (I started a technology company that grew to over 40 employees) and my education in economics convinces me that Santa Fe has a monopsonistic demand for labor, and the local larger employers control wages.

I think the form could be improved. Rather than a hard number like \$8.50, it should have an adjustment for the basic cost of living in Santa Fe (food, rent, fuel). This would put some feedback into the formula that local large businesses have some control over.

This is also a social/economic experiment. If it fails (greater unemployment, lower overall benefit to employees), then back it out in several years.

2. Assuming the Living Wage Ordinance is upheld by the courts, would you support implementation of a similar measure by other jurisdictions (e.g. Santa Fe County)?

Yes.

Comments: Per question #1, I would support implementation in Santa Fe County, but not in other jurisdiction without extensive research.

3. Would you support or oppose a bill in the legislature to prevent New Mexico municipalities and political subdivisions from requiring a minimum wage higher than the federal or state minimum wage?

Oppose, just a bit.

Comments: Generally, I like legislation to be set by political bodies closest to the public they serve. Santa Fe has a unique makeup that may not apply to Hobbs or Gallup, and this difference may be lost on State legislators.

4. Would you support a bill in the legislature to raise the minimum wage in New Mexico? If so, what level would you support?

Not sure.

Comments: I would rather see the Federal minimum wage increased. The level would be based on inflation since the last adjustment, but I'm guessing \$6.50 - \$7.50.

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