

PROFILES IN CITIZENSHIP: HOW TO KEEP THE REPUBLIC



Courtesy of the office of Governor Susana Martinez

Susana Martinez

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez had her eye on the statehouse since she was a teenager. “I thought the best place to cause the greatest change was being a governor,” she explains, “so that became my goal.” She worked doggedly toward that goal throughout high school, college, and law school, and eventually carving out formidable career as a tough prosecutor specializing in cases of child murder and abuse. Raised as a Democrat, she realized after a lunch with local Republicans that her values aligned more closely with theirs. Martinez switched parties, ran for district attorney against her old boss, and won the way she had done most things in her life—by doing her homework, being prepared, and having a clear vision of where she wanted to go. When the opportunity came around to run for governor in 2010, Martinez took the same approach. She worked hard, ran hard, and won, determined to clean up a state government that she felt had gotten sloppy. When you talk to her about it, it is clear she is enjoying every minute. Susana

Martinez spoke with us on September 23, 2014. Here’s some of her advice for students.

On keeping the republic:

I think to keep the republic, people must stay informed, particularly youth. With the world of technology, it can play both ways as there is an abundance of information, but also a dearth of attention. . . . Consuming information is not enough, in that discussion is required, whether you agree with someone’s viewpoint or not. . . . In the end, if we are discussing important issues, we can have more control over determining our own future and crafting our destinies as individuals, as a community and as a nation.