



# NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

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Jon Barela Reaches 'Contender' Status

New Mexico Republican Takes Critical Second Step in 'Young Guns' Program

Washington- The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) announced today that Republican Jon Barela (NM-01) has reached 'Contender' status as part of its Young Guns program. 'Contender' status is the second step in the three-level program, with Barela now facing a new set of benchmarks to reach 'Young Gun' status in his bid to unseat incumbent Democrat Martin Heinrich.

Founded in the 2007-2008 election cycle by Reps. Eric Cantor (R-VA), Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Paul Ryan (R-WI), the Young Guns program is a member-driven organization dedicated to electing open-seat and challenger candidates nationwide. By achieving 'Contender' status, Barela has already proven his ability to build a successful campaign structure and achieve vital fundraising goals.

"Jon Barela has already proven that he will be a formidable candidate by meeting the Young Guns program's rigorous goals and is well on his way to building a winning campaign that will put this seat back in the Republican column," said NRCC Chairman Pete Sessions. "Jon is part of a strong and growing pool of candidates who are frustrated with the Democrat majority's big-government ways and aren't willing to stand by any longer. His campaign has put Martin Heinrich on notice that Americans are ready to turn the page on the failed experiment known as the Obama-Pelosi agenda."

Barela is a Hispanic small business owner and past chairman of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. He serves on numerous non-profit boards of directors and is passionate about making New Mexico a better place to live and work. Barela has made competitiveness and improving education central themes in his chairmanship of several significant organizations, including the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce (one of the country's largest Hispanic chambers), New Mexico First (the

state's leading nonpartisan public policy group), New Mexico's Work Force Development Board and the Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation. He most recently served on the Albuquerque Public Schools Board, helping oversee operations of one of the country's largest school districts.

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