

Why Biden Should Pick Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham As His Vice-Presidential Running Mate

By Alan Clayton, Latino Journal Political Analyst

I have been involved in voting rights issues in the Latino community for over 30 years which has given me the ability to analyze the impact on Latinos in terms of elections.

In this particular case, we're looking at the vice presidency of the United States. Joe Biden, the candidate, would make his best decision if he chose Latina Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham from New Mexico as his running mate for the following reasons.

Governor Lujan Grisham has congressional experience through three terms in the House of Representatives where she also served as chair of the Hispanic Congressional Caucus. Currently she is the governor of New Mexico, and, previously served as the health officer for the state of New Mexico, an appointment she received under former Governor Bill Richardson.

Michelle Lujan Grisham would bring unique qualifications to the Vice Presidency. She can mobilize the Latino community to register to vote and to influence other Latinos to vote, which would result in a massive turnout in support of Vice President Joe Biden.

I believe her candidacy would result in a massive turnout of Latinos on election day because I have found in my 30 years of voting rights work that Latinos will vote to elect a candidate of their choice if they believe that candidate can win or be competitive. In this case, you have a superb candidate who I believe will turn out the Latino vote for Joe Biden in record numbers.

I read the quote that Matt Barreto made about the influence of a Latino candidate on voter turnout and voting strength ([Biden still has a Hispanic voter problem, but does it matter?- The Hill](#)). And I think he's exactly correct. In this particular case, we're looking at the electoral college and the ability to elect Joe Biden and get 271 votes from the electoral college.

If the presidential race with President Trump tightens up into a close race, I believe Governor Lujan Grisham being on the ticket would enable Joe Biden to win the race.

Here's where she brings the winning edge for Texas to be competitive with her on the ballot. Latinos are over 30.4% of the voters in Texas. She could be the winning edge in Florida with the Latino vote at 20.5%. Additionally, having her on the ticket, Vice President Biden would be the favorite to win Nevada with 19.7% Latino vote, Arizona with its 23.6% Latino vote, Colorado with its Latino vote of 15.9%. She would also help the vice president in state elections like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania by significantly increasing the Latino voter turnout.

Going into the 2020 election, according to [PEW research, Latinos are projected to be 13.3% of the vote](#), making it the largest minority group of voters in the country.

As the governor of New Mexico with the largest percentage of Latino voters, she would make vice president Biden the favorite to win New Mexico's electoral votes.

I believe given my 30 years experience in politics that she would enable Vice President Biden to win over 271 electoral college votes necessary to win.

So, for Joe Biden, having her on the ticket is the gold standard. That doesn't mean there are no other good candidates, but she brings more assets to the campaign than any other VP candidate. She brings congressional experience and executive experience. She brings passion. She has been fighting for the issues that progressives and mainstream Democrats support.

She brings everything to the table that you would need. She is 60 years old. She's young enough. And if anything happened to the president where he didn't run for a second term, she would be available or if anything happened to him while he was in office, she'd be an outstanding president.

So, she brings everything you would want to the ticket, including she's a 12th generation, New Mexican. She cares about family first.

And she could be an outstanding role model for Latinas, women and minorities across the U.S., encouraging them to get involved in the political process, to become citizens, to register to vote, to inspire others into voting, and to get a massive Latino turnout nationwide. She would inspire more Latinas to enter into politics because they can see, you can do it. If you try and you persevere and you work hard, you can do it.

So, for all those reasons, Joe Biden should pick her as his running mate which will enable him to win the presidency. And that's why it's so important that he picks a superb candidate who happens to be a Mexican American woman with outstanding leadership skills and credentials.