

Abuzaiter wins Greensboro's Mayoral Election, Becomes City's 50th Mayor

By Kenyon Gregory



The polls have closed, the votes have been counted, and Greensboro has a new mayor. Marikay Abuzaiter has been elected mayor of Greensboro, defeating her opponent, Robbie Perkins, to become the city's 50th mayor. Abuzaiter is the first new mayor for the Triad's largest city in over a decade. With more than 52,000 votes cast, Abuzaiter won with 60.67 % of the vote, and Perkins received 38.78% of the vote.

During her campaign, she described herself as a steady hand on the city, having served on the city council since 2011. She emphasized her decades of work in the community, which includes her involvement in city initiatives that she helped plan and implement. One of her biggest accomplishments is helping to start the Guilford County Family Justice Center in 2015, which, according to Abuzaiter, has helped over 100,000 people over the last 10 years.

"I am invested in Greensboro and I've always been invested in the city," Abuzaiter said during a debate against Perkins.

One of the biggest issues she highlighted in her campaign is affordable housing in the city. The former Mayor Pro Tem helped establish the Yanceyville Place, calling it an example of what collaboration between the city, faith groups, and developers could accomplish. She is also excited about the "Road to 10,000" initiative to build 10,000 more housing units by 2030.

“These are initiatives we’ve been working on for the last 12-14 years, and I want to see them completed so our community has the affordable housing it deserves,” Abuzaiter said.

Public safety also remains a concern for residents in the city. One of the things she proposed on the campaign trail is that when there are downtown events, there would be a clear plastic bag policy for everything. She hopes that this will curb the youth violence in the city. She also highlighted the city’s Behavioral Response Team, domestic-violence initiatives, and investments in fire-safety education.

Greensboro is a city that has potential and is a city that has changed through recent economic developments. It has become a city that companies want to invest in. Abuzaiter was a part of the recent economic changes in the city, and community members hope for these opportunities to grow. The new mayor-elect will now guide the city into the future and will succeed outgoing mayor Nancy Vaughn, who chose not to seek reelection this year. Now, one of Greensboro’s biggest “cheerleaders” is the city’s next mayor.