

League of Women Voters of New Mexico

candidate questionnaire available here: <https://www.vote411.org/plan-your-vote>

Candidate Answers



Non-Partisan Election

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What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

My leadership abilities, education, judgment, people skills, tenacity, and dedication to just plain working hard qualify me for City Council. I am the most qualified candidate in the District 6 race. I have a master's degree in Public Administration. I have been Executive Director at the nonprofit Cuidando Los Niños for the last five years. Cuidando is a five star preschool and day shelter for families experiencing homelessness. I am also president of the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association Board.

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

Crime and homelessness are my top priorities. Crime is affecting our quality of life here in Albuquerque. We must interrupt the cycles of crime. I advocate instituting short-term APD mobile command units in high crime areas. This type of community policing approach can be highly effective, and it maximizes officer time where it counts. We must be strategic so that officers can spend their time preventing and addressing crime. Technology such as speed cameras has a role to play also.

Which aspects of dealing with the homeless population are you most concerned about?

I am concerned that our city's attempts to come to grips with the homelessness crisis are on the wrong track. The Gateway Center is a good start, but it is not the entire solution. We need to think beyond a large-scale homeless shelter and instead establish population-specific smaller shelters that are distributed throughout the city. We also need to focus on homelessness prevention. Eviction prevention programs, in the form of short term rent assistance, would be extremely cost effective.

What is your view about adding any restrictions on short-term rentals (e.g., AirBNB, VRBO, etc.) in the City?

At this time I am not in favor of adding any restrictions on short-term rentals in Albuquerque. As a city, we need to look closely at the real drivers of both homelessness and our affordable housing shortage. We also need to look at solutions that address what is really underlying both issues. Restrictions on short-

term rentals will not have an appreciable impact on the stock of affordable housing in our city.

What other issues should be addressed by the Council over the next two years?

Economic development must be addressed by City Council over the next two years, as it will have positive impacts on both crime and homelessness. As City Councilor for District 6, I will have a particular focus on economic development in the International District. In addition to economic development, Albuquerque needs to address police reform and officer retention. Our goal must be recruiting and rewarding dedicated police officers and training them on effective, constitutional policing.

What actions will you take to strengthen communications with constituents?

Representative democracy only works when elected representatives listen to their constituents and have the determination to bring forward the issues they care about. This starts with listening. Listening can take many forms: emails, phone calls, letters, meetings. As your City Councilor, I pledge to be responsive to constituents who communicate with me and my office. I also pledge to hold monthly meetings with constituents in different parts of the district, and to always explain my positions.