

Marc DePauli For Mayor on November 4, 2025

Answer for KGLP Municipal Forum

Question 1: What do you think are the biggest problems in the City.

The biggest problem that the City faces is crime. As Mayor, I will ensure Public Safety for all. The illegal drug trade in Gallup must be stopped. Methamphetamine, fentanyl, crack cocaine and heroin are major contributors to crime in our City. Drug dealing, prostitution, and human trafficking are a direct result of the illegal drug use. Aggressive panhandling is also a result of drugs. I will develop a plan to tackle the illegal drug trade by hiring more police officers, paying competitive salaries, and providing incentives such as legal support. As mayor I will begin an intern program to introduce students and youth to a career in law enforcement. Create a mounted patrol, horses, ATV 4x4s, and drones to patrol ditches, bridges, drainages, hills, alleys, and all areas not accessible by police vehicles. Apply modern technology by providing a proactive approach to deter crime by installing cameras and drones to patrol streets, alleys and public ways continuously. I also plan on asking the federal law enforcement to assist in stopping the illegal drug trade in our City because the current DA is not doing enough to stop crime.

Question 2: How will you ensure you are representing the sometimes conflicting needs and views of the whole city.

Most of the needs are similar throughout the City and in all Districts. Potholes and roadways need to be fixed, old water lines need to be replaced before bursting, deteriorated curb, gutter and sidewalk needs to be replaced, and areas of Gallup and certain properties with trash, debris and weeds must be cleaned up. In addition, there are specific areas of the City that will require additional attention where illegal drug use is rampant. Most of these areas where illegal drug use is occurring are owned by private parties, like BNSF railroad and NMDOT. The City does not own the property and is required to enter the property to maintain law and order. As Mayor I will work with the City Council to make sure that these properties are cleaned up and are no longer a place for illicit drug use and the associated crime. This may result in fines or other measures already in place needed to clean up the City.

Question 3.

As a coach and chairman of the Gallup Sports Commission, the safety and wellbeing of the children, players, coaches and parents was the most important. I also want to point out that during World War II the federal government was removing Japanese Americans from their homes and businesses and placed them in internment camps throughout the country. NOT IN GALLUP! Sheriff Dominic "Mickey" Mollica, an Italian American, made an announcement that the Japanese Americans in Gallup would be treated like his own family. Dominic Mollica was a true American hero. I will continue this tradition and resist any actions by federal government to remove children and parents from homes, schools, sporting events and places of work. However, federal criminal warrants for drug dealers, human trafficker, child abusers and sex offenders will have the full support of the local law enforcement.

Question 4 What do you believe are the primary factors driving homelessness in our City,

The primary factor driving homelessness in Gallup is safety and security at home. Either they are victims of abuse, or they are the abuser and not wanted at home. Homelessness is not the correct term for the people walking the streets of Gallup. Unhoused is a more appropriate term because most of them have homes. There are many private and public service organizations in Gallup to address the issues faced by those on the streets. By law no one can be forced to enter a treatment facility. The must enter voluntarily. As mayor I will work with private organizations, the Navajo Tribe, State of New Mexico, and the Federal Government including Indian Health Service to find a solution to determine a path for people to return to a safe home and live-in peace.

Question 5 What do you see as the most pressing threats to our city's long term water security

I have worked on the City of Gallup's water supply since 1986. From 1906 to 2002 the City drilled about 45 water wells. The groundwater levels and production in these wells has steadily

declined and only 15 wells are producing water today. The City also implemented a water conservation program that included replacing grass fields with turf. The results of the water conservation reduced the City's demand for drinking water. In 2006 the City of Gallup pursued a new well field east of the Hogback, then in 2010 the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project was authorized by Congress for construction. The project would bring treated surface water from the San Juan River to Gallup and the surrounding Navajo Chapters. Delivery of San Juan River water was set for December 31, 2025. On August 14, 2019, the project was delayed without the approval of the City. In order to provide a reliable and uninterrupted water supply, the City has drilled more groundwater wells to offset the delay in surface delivery. Now the City is faced with paying for new wells while repaying the federal government for our portion of the NGWSP. This is not affordable and the City has requested a federal cost cap for our portion of the project. If the cost cap is not approved the City shall either renegotiate the federal contract or drop out of the project completely. Because of my extensive knowledge on the subject, and the valuable relationships I have built I am the best candidate to continue to negotiate with the federal government and the Navajo Nation for water supply.

In addition, as Mayor I plan to produce the best quality reuse water from the City's wastewater treatment plant. Reuse water shall be used in industrial and construction applications.

Question 6: Federal policy changes are impacting key quality of life services:

As mayor of Gallup, I will strive to reduce the City's dependance on the federal government. The City and the State need to become more self-sustaining and not reliant on the federal government for funding of these key quality of life services. As Chairman of the Sport's Commission, I have supported and watched the construction of many fields and park improvement and upgrade projects. These projects were funded locally or by the State, not funded by the federal government. These same funding sources can be used to replace the reliance on federal funding for arts, libraries, and public radio within the City.

Question 7: Effective regional cooperation involves state and county bodies, the Navajo Nation and Zuni Pueblo.

As mayor I will continue to work with the State, Navajo Nation and Zuni Pueblo on economic development, transportation, roadway, bridge, water and sewer projects. I have learned to work directly with the department such water resources, land office and Navajo Nation EPA to complete project. Public safety, reducing drug addiction, and finding a place for the unhoused to stay can only be accomplished through a collaborative effort from the City, State, County, and Native Tribes.

In closing I want to announce that anyone affected by uranium mining, hauling or milling may be eligible to receive money from the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act that was recently authorized by US Congress. Visit my web page for more details: www.marcformayor.org