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- REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT
- VIEW A SAMPLE BALLOT

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### FEDERAL (Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) ABSENTEE VOTING

UOCAVA requests for mailed absentee ballots are due October 24, 2023 by end of the business day (5 p.m.).

UOCAVA requests for emailed ballots are due by midnight, end of November 4.

Ballots must be returned by November 7, 7:00 p.m.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- OCTOBER 10**
- Mail and Online Voter Registration ends
  - Same Day Registration begins
  - Absentee ballots begin mailing
  - Early Voting begins at Doña Ana County Government Center
- OCTOBER 21**
- Expanded Early Voting begins at 8 additional sites
- OCTOBER 24**
- Last day to submit application for mail-in absentee ballot
- NOVEMBER 4**
- Early Voting ends
- NOVEMBER 7**
- ELECTION DAY
  - Last day for Same Day Registration
  - All absentee ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m.

### EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Open October 21-November 4  
Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-7 pm

- Anthony:** Anthony Public Library
- Chaparral:** Doña Ana Community College Chaparral
- Hatch:** Hatch High School
- Las Cruces:** Doña Ana County Government Center Las Cruces City Hall
- Las Cruces:** NMSU Corbett Center
- Las Cruces:** Doña Ana Community College East Mesa
- Mesilla:** Mesilla Town Hall
- Sunland Park:** Doña Ana Community College Sunland Park



## CITY OF LAS CRUCES MAYOR

**Mariah J. Hernandez**  
Candidate for City of Las Cruces Mayor  
Candidate has not responded.

**Eric Enriquez**  
Candidate for City of Las Cruces Mayor  
Candidate has not responded.



**Kasandra Gandara**  
Candidate for City of Las Cruces Mayor

1. Serving as City Councilor for District 1 since 2015 and as Mayor Pro Tem since 2019 has provided me with the extensive experience needed to execute the duties and responsibilities of required to be an active and effective mayor. I have lived in Las Cruces for 30 years graduating from NMSU with both bachelor's and master's degree followed by nearly three decades of service to the State of New Mexico with DOH and CYFD. My proven experience as a change agent will provide the leadership required.

2. To support a vibrant economy, I will harness the strength that building innovative public private partnerships provide. This will help to ensure our economy is as diverse and resilient as our community. Addressing the economic leakage out of Las Cruces, extra emphasis on health care, aerospace, technology, green industries and the arts is

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

1. What are the skills and background experiences that equip you to be mayor?
2. List your top three strategies for supporting a vibrant economy in your community.
3. How would you address your community's safety concerns?
4. How would you address the affordable housing needs in your community?

needed. Continue the ongoing work within LC Public Schools so all students graduate and stay in our community and have access to good paying jobs.

3. First, assure law enforcement and fire services have the resources and tools they require to be effective. Support the framework of 21st Century and CALEA policing that identifies best practices for reducing crime while building trust. Establish a domestic violence prevention plan; increase collaboration with criminal justice entities to curb the revolving door of repeat offenders, obtain funding and establish a public facing substance abuse and mental health center and scale out Lift Up.

4. Utilizing policies already in place such as our Housing Policy Committee, the Land Trust Fund, strengthening our partnership with the Mortgage Finance Authority, as

well as other federally funded resources and outreach to philanthropic organizations will further our efforts to help fill the housing needs beyond the twelve housing projects that are currently in different phases of completion in Las Cruces. An enhanced uniform housing code is also needed to equifinality to address disputes.



**Alexander Paige Baca Fresquez**  
Candidate for City of Las Cruces Mayor

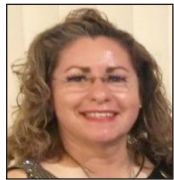
1. My time with FYI-Americorps leading teams tasked with keeping 40 rowdy kids safe, healthy, and respectful is a perfect example of my experience in public service, and of a community that thrives with good leadership. It took excellent communication, compassion, and commitment. The skill that perhaps distinguishes me most as a top choice for Mayor is my keen ability to solve problems inventively. Can the same thoughts and actions that caused our problems be used to solve them?

2. People want to live where they can thrive at every age. Infrastructure projects such as protected bike lanes, Points of Interest such as public artworks, and Diverse Recreation sites would improve the quality of life and economic values of the city, increase tourism which supports our local businesses, retains generations, and attract outside businesses. Most importantly, the vibrant economy of the future depends on water. No person, project, or city can exist

without it. It must be conserved.

3. Theft is a major concern in Las Cruces, which suffered significant economic loss during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Try as we must to reduce these crimes presently we must recognize their underlying causes and look to their prevention. By caring for the physical and mental health of our population as well as teaching real-world skills in our schools, we can ensure that the majority of Las Cruces can provide for themselves and strengthen the fabric of our community rather than harm it.

4. The main reasons for a lack of affordable housing in Las Cruces are, that building smaller houses with smaller profits is not the central aim of current construction business models; and there aren't currently enough skilled craftspeople to build the volume of houses needed in Las Cruces. To know the problem is to know the solution. Grow more skilled craftspeople through the public/trade schools and finance those new builders with the express intent to build affordable housing.



### Eugenia Gina Montoya Ortega Candidate for City of Las Cruces Mayor

1. Born and raised in Las Cruces I understand our people as LC is not a place it's people, people who have not been listened to. I have been blessed w/ skills of listening, understanding/being financially responsible, public administration, empathy, decision making, communicating, leadership, HR .... Small Business Owner, Assessor, educational asst., Cust. svc. asst., AA Acct. Asst, Wife, Mother, Nana, Sister, person with desire and dedication to make a difference in the lives of all the people.

2. Let's use our people's money wisely stop wasteful spending, currently wasting money on revamping the city

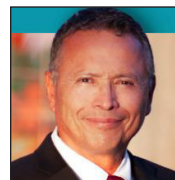
logo, redesigning busy roadways from 4 to 3 lanes, publicly funded guaranteed basic income program, and many other wasteful projects, this money can be used on investing on our future. We need to invest in our youth/children they are our future police... in turn supporting a vibrant economy when they do not become delinquents, as trouble is free. Support new businesses wanting to open in LC.

3. Ensuring our police officers are properly trained, police department fully staffed, and willing to be transparent rebuilding the public's trust. Recognizing that public safety is the responsibility of each and every one of us including governments, communities, and partnerships at all levels. Teaching people to be proactive rather than reactive, as many crimes are committed due to carelessness of victim. Tackling the social and economic conditions which foster crime and victimization.

4. Engaging local community members as they have info. city staff may not know as there are many more of them. Look at property currently owned by the city to utilize for these projects. Look at enacting local policies and program improvements that increase supporting affordable housing development.

### Isabella Solis Candidate for City of Las Cruces Mayor

Candidate has not responded.



### Mike A Tellez Candidate for City of Las Cruces Mayor

1. Owned a national chain restaurant for 17 years, degree from NMSU in Communication studies, owned and operated a non profit

community center for 18 years working with youth.

2. 1. Work with economic development to find what is needed to attract high end companies to Las Cruces. 2. Provide necessary funding towards economic development. Personally visit potential companies along with department of Economic development. 3. Work with NMSU to prep graduates with skills required to provide a work force able to provide high end companies the necessary skills to perform high end jobs.

3. We have a homeless problem I have studied 6 years on a viable solution. Speaking to the past Chief of police I learned the crime problem in Las Cruces was 98% substances abuse and mental health. The armory on Brown rd is a good example. 2. Police we need to up our police force to 300. Put in place a program to incentivize police to live in at risk neighborhoods by providing rent and utilities payed for by city. We can make those neighborhoods there Main project to get to know the communities.

4. First priority would be to house seniors and single mothers with children. There would be stringent rules in place to qualify ex; drug testing and working or volunteering in the schools in their community. Local contractors would be first in line to build the units, out of state companies would be last resort. The housing would be divided into different parts of town to avoid building projects. Housing inspections would take place on a basis.

## TOWN OF MESILLA MAYOR

### Russell Hernandez Candidate for Town of Mesilla Mayor

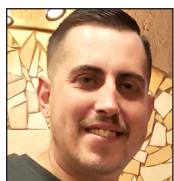
Candidate has not responded.

## CITY OF LAS CRUCES COUNCILOR

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCILOR

1. What are the skills and background experiences that equip you to be a Councilor?
2. What are your top priorities for your community?
3. List your top three strategies for supporting a vibrant economy in your community.
4. What do you think should be done to improve the quality of life in your community?

### DISTRICT 1



### Jason Daniel Estrada Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 1

1. Listening: Being attentive to the concerns and needs of constituents is vital for representing their interests. I deal with our local

community and our small businesses daily. Problem-Solving: The ability to analyze complex issues and develop practical solutions is essential for addressing community challenges. Being a local business owner this is a daily thing. Leadership: Councilors should provide direction, inspire trust, and facilitate collaboration among diverse groups.

2. Public Safety: Ensuring the safety and well-being of community members is a top priority. This includes having an effective law enforcement system, adequate emergency services, and measures to reduce crime and resolve the homeless issue in our city. Economic Development: Promoting economic growth and stability is crucial for creating job opportunities and improving the overall quality of life in a community. This involve attracting businesses, and supporting entrepreneurs.

3. 1. Promote Small Business Growth: Encourage entrepreneurship and small business development providing resources, training, and incentives for local entrepreneurs. This can include creating business incubators, and simplifying the permitting process. Invest in education and Workforce Development: Strengthen the local workforce by investing in education and skill-building programs. Collaborate with local schools, colleges, and vocational training centers to ensure residents have the job skills

needed Promote Small Business Growth: Encourage entrepreneurship and small business development providing resources, training, and incentives for local entrepreneurs. This can include creating business incubators, and simplifying the permitting process. Invest in education and Workforce Development: Strengthen the local workforce by investing in education and skill-building programs. Collaborate with local schools, colleges, and vocational

### Ranked-Choice Voting

The City of Las Cruces uses Ranked-Choice Voting (also known as Instant Runoff Voting). If three or more candidates appear on the ballot in a single race, voters may rank them in numerical order.

For an entertaining and understandable explanation of how ranked-choice voting works, use your cell phone camera to focus on the QR code, open your browser and watch a very short YouTube video.





training centers to ensure residents have the job skills needed.

**4. Infrastructure Development:** Improve roads, public transportation, and utilities for convenience and safety.  
**Community Engagement:** Foster a sense of belonging and social cohesion through community events and initiatives.  
**Environmental Sustainability:** Implement eco-friendly practices to protect the environment for future generations.  
**Safety and Security:** Enhance law enforcement and emergency services to create a safe environment.  
**Economic Opportunities:** Attract businesses and create jobs



## Cassandra L. McClure Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 1

**1.** I've lived in Las Cruces since 2003, graduating from NMSU with my bachelor's and master's degrees. I'm raising a family here and have been a business owner since 2013, contracting with government agencies, including the City of Las Cruces (CLC). I am the chair of the CLC Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the vice chair of the J. Paul Taylor Academy Governance Council, a KRWG Patron Board Member, a proud member of the National Writers Union, and past president of the Las Cruces Press Women.

**2.** I want to facilitate more citizen voices for city-wide decisions. I want to investigate public safety options for our growing community that is facing the same challenges that cities throughout our country, including issues of poverty, mental health, and drug use. I would prioritize smart and sustainable development while investing in robust infrastructure that preserves our natural resources, our history, and enhances our quality of life while creating true community for generations to come.

**3.** A vibrant economy is built on a foundation of education and entrepreneurship, which requires the active involvement and commitment of the entire community. We can help promote partnerships to align education with the needs of different job markets, finding opportunities to provide training for residents to acquire new skills or upgrade existing ones. We can encourage and support local entrepreneurs by streamlining licensing processes to make it easier for small businesses to operate.

**4.** We should promote renewable energy initiatives, biking lanes, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and address affordable housing by promoting mixed-income and mixed-use housing developments. We should invest in crime prevention programs, neighborhood watch initiatives, and programs that address the root causes of crime, including poverty. We should uplift social services, such as mental health resources and support for vulnerable populations, to address the diverse needs of the community.



## Daniel Gordon Buck Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 1

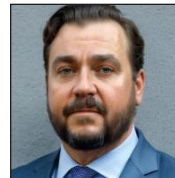
**1.** I serve on the Realize Las Cruces and Transit Advisory Boards, enhancing my expertise in fiscal management and city growth. Through Economic Development, I've diversified our economy by connecting with potential employers. My roles with state and local bodies deepen my understanding of employment

needs. As a business owner, I spotlight our community's history and have led housing projects in Southwestern New Mexico. I'm dedicated to addressing housing needs, boosting salaries, and poverty.

**2.** Economic Development and Revitalization, Homelessness and Housing Support, Enhancing the Las Cruces Transit Program, Road Quality and Infrastructure Improvement, Ensuring Affordable Utilities and Sustainable Transition, Social Justice and Public Safety, Education and Community Engagement, Crime Prevention and Public Safety.

**3.** Through multi-purpose parking facilities, we'll facilitate the creation of ground-floor commercial spaces, sparking new business opportunities. By pushing for mixed-income housing in these areas, we not only ensure a holistic living experience but also generate more job opportunities. Moreover, in collaboration with the city and state, we'll transition to a more sustainable future by championing renewable energy solutions, setting targets like 100% solar-powered parking.

**4.** Prioritize Housing and Address Homelessness, Enhance Infrastructure and Transit, Empower Social Justice and Bolster Public Safety.



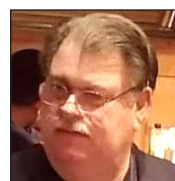
## Patrick W. Potter Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 1

**1.** While I may not have a political track record, I am eager to learn, dedicated to representing my district effectively, and passionate about contributing to the betterment of our community. I believe that my skills, coupled with my genuine commitment, make me a strong candidate for the role of Councilor.

**2.** It's crucial that we create a justice system where individuals who commit crimes are held accountable for their actions. This includes ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the resources and training necessary to investigate and apprehend criminals effectively. Additionally, we should advocate for fair and just sentencing that takes into consideration the severity of the crime and the individual's circumstances. Ultimately, the safety of our community is paramount.

**3.** Innovative Public Safety: Collaborate with local law enforcement for community-focused policing, enhancing safety for residents and businesses. Revitalize Recreation: Enhance parks and cultural offerings to boost tourism and local businesses, creating jobs and economic opportunities for our community. Business-Friendly: Streamline processes, reduce red tape, and support entrepreneurship for economic growth, fostering a thriving and prosperous Las Cruces.

**4.** Improving quality of life: Innovative policing, better parks, and business-friendly policies to create jobs and foster a thriving community.



## Mark J. O'Neill Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 1

**1.** My many decades of public service and a history of civic engagement to learn the general function and needs of a community such as Las Cruces. Some examples of this are my appointments

here to the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee, the Parks Advisory Board and the Labor Management Relations Board. Skills developed as a business owner and through employment in cities, schools and federal agencies will help me in the areas of policy making, strategic planning and fiscal management.

**2.** My priorities include keeping our citizens safe at home, at businesses on the road and from media scams. I have ideas for improved policing, accountability for repeat offenders, a monitored step up program for the homeless and restitution for the victims. Mental health, addiction concern me and I am active in this area. Road safety includes mitigating obstructions, more frequent painting of lines, and better engineering of street lights. Innovative measures are needed to address blight.

**3.** Keeping our workforce active and earning reasonable wages. Continued training and increased opportunities like internships and filling needed part time fun jobs for the private and public sectors. Our young people and seniors who wish to remain active can really benefit in such roles as Movie Extras, Umpires, Coaches, Tutors, Lifeguards, Hobby Class Instructors. I'm experienced in this area. Tourism could be expanded. I will listen to and be open to the needs our local business owners.

**4.** Councilors must be good listeners, research important issues and offer sensible solutions. They must be responsive and transparent to the Community. I advocate for building on our wonderful historic, art, music and film culture and continue to offer events for all ages. Preserving and maintaining our monuments, public lands, green spaces, parks and a clean environment for outdoor recreation. Provide more enrichment classes & programs for youth, Gen Z and Seniors. Keep up with road repairs.

## DISTRICT 2



## Tessa L. Abeyta Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 2

**1.** I have served as City Councilor in District 2 for 4 years. During that time, I have worked with our community to build better roads, improve our infrastructure and strengthen our public safety. I am a former small business owner and children's welfare advocate. As a mother of 3, I understand the needs of everyday Las Cruces who are trying to build a better life for themselves and their families. I also serve as President of the New Mexico Municipal League.

**2.** Increasing outreach with constituents will always be a priority. I will continue to address the El Paseo Revitalization, and need for affordable housing. I remain a champion to move forward with the redesign for Tony Gomez Park and University Avenue. I will continue to work with our first responders to ensure that everyone in our community is safe, which is why I am proud to have received the endorsement of the Fire Fighters Union Local 2362 and the Las Cruces Police Officers Association.

**3.** 1. Invest in infrastructure that brings good paying jobs to Las Cruces and recruit a well trained workforce in key labor initiatives including apprentice and pre-apprenticeship programs. 2. Incentivize small businesses to build, grow, and scale right here in Las Cruces by expanding our divisions in the City to support our small businesses. 3. Advocate for

living wages and more affordable housing so Las Cruces is a place where the workforce is able to be retained and can thrive.

4. We have so much potential to grow in a responsible way in Las Cruces, and we have to work as a community to make sure that all of our needs are met. I have secured funding for key investments in roads and parks across District 2. I also support expanding after-school programs throughout the City to keep our kids active and healthy, while supporting new community and multi-generational centers and programs that build connectivity between residents of all ages.



### **William "Bill" Mattiace Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 2**

1. I served eight years in city government both as a councilor and as a mayor. My wife and I have operated a small business for over 40 years. I was the Director of the New Mexico Border Authority for eight years. Compromise, honest dialogue and negotiation are key skills of mine. Leadership is a partnership between constituents and elected officials – based in trust that my door will always be open, I'll always listen, and I'll always be willing to make compromises.

2. Public safety, sustainable economic growth, beautification, maintaining property values, supporting arts, diversity and culture education. I can't sit at home and watch the community I love not be as vibrant and as inclusive as it was for me and my family. Let's reopen the Department of Common Sense for District 2 on November 7.

3. Fiscal responsibility, honest and experienced leadership, and community investment without taxation or increases in utility fees. For example, there's more than \$847,000 from a cannabis excise tax the city received to be used to invest in social and economic infrastructure which in turn will result in job creation and beautification. We must stay focused on the local needs and properly appropriate resources where they have the most potential to create a better community for all.

4. We first must learn what quality of life means for

Las Cruces in District 2. I'm so proud to have chosen Las Cruces as my home – I don't know about you, but I have this feeling in my gut that our community needs help – that's it's not the vibrant, prosperous, magical city I know it to be – and I think a complacent and inexperienced local government is partly to blame. There's unwillingness to do what's right and only do what's popular. Let's put people, not politics, first.

### **DISTRICT 4**

### **Lorenzo M. Medina Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 4**

Candidate has not responded.



### **Johana Bencomo Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 4**

1. As District 4 City Councilor, I've worked with the community to address challenges facing our district and city. The devastating ripple effects of the pandemic are real. Steady leadership and deep understanding of local needs and opportunities are critical. I can continue to lead through these times with bold community-rooted solutions. Historic state revenues are projected: we can lobby for critical funds to meet our needs. I have the knowledge, experience and courage to fight for Las Cruces.

2. Community safety, including increasing housing stability for ALL income levels and expanding mental health and substance use treatment resources. Revitalization of historically neglected areas like W. Picacho, El Paseo/ S. Solano with infrastructure improvements, housing support, motel revitalization, and small business support. Addressing neighborhood infrastructure by increasing funding for traffic calming and street/ sidewalk improvements & work with advocates to improve pedestrian safety.

3. Revitalization of the W. Picacho, El Paseo, and S. Solano

corridors will impact the vibrancy of Las Cruces' economy. Ensuring the new Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas are implemented and funded is a key priority. Creating, funding and supporting workforce development programs will bolster key industries and support workers. Continuing to lift up equitable wages, invest in the Innovation and Industrial Park and collaborate on flexible training programs will help workers increase social mobility.

4. I know at my core that we can and are building a better, stronger, and safer Las Cruces together. We can address the challenges our city is facing, like the housing crisis, the fentanyl crisis, the climate crisis, poverty, and violence without turning on each other. We must continue investing in innovative, evidence-based, root cause solutions. Economic and housing stability must continue to be priorities, as well as investing in existing parks and more walkable neighborhoods.



### **Ramon O. Ortega Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 4**

1. Small Business co-owner, native of Las Cruces, understands budgets/ business/finance/ economics, understands that we are elected to serve the people not the other way around, works well with others to move projects forward in the best interest of people.

2. Giving people back their voices. Taking care of issues which have gone neglected, Crime/ homelessness

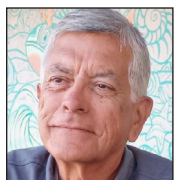
3. Attract new businesses. Supporting workers. Increase access to advanced education, workforce. development, and job training opportunities.

4. Focus on the needs of people. Public safety. Bring more jobs to Las Cruces.

### **Gabriel Duran, Jr., Candidate for City of Las Cruces Councilor, District 4**

Candidate has not responded.

## **TOWN OF MESILLA TRUSTEE**



### **Gerard R. Nevarez Candidate for Town of Mesilla Trustee**

1. I have an MPA from NMSU which served as an educational foundation for a career in the public service. I worked in a municipality, the City of Las Cruces. For nine years I was the EEO/Training Officer. As such, I participated in decision making in the city government. Served as the Executive Director of the NMSU Office of Institutional Equity for 12 years. I was on the Mesilla Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission for six years working on zoning issues and ordinances.

2. I want to focus on four areas. These are community well-being (quality of life) issues, transparency, preservation and responsiveness with respect to the residents of Mesilla. We have great opportunities and I want to be a strong

partner with the Mayor and Board of Trustees members on decision making relating to the future of our very unique and historical town.

3. We need to listen and work closely with the Mesilla businesses on issues that may impact them. Additionally, information on ordinances and processes should be easily available using the town's website for individuals wanting to conduct business within the town. Also, we should look at the paperwork that is needed and seek ways to streamline that include on-line fillable forms.

4. We should study on how to maintain our infrastructure on a level that will benefit residents. This includes water, sewer, public safety, traffic flow and congestion, parks and recreation. Additionally, look to enhance cultural awareness and events and promote participation among a wide spectrum of our residents.



### **Stephanie A. Johnson Candidate for Town of Mesilla Trustee**

1. Serving as Trustee since 2014 has provided me with the experience, skills, and knowledge necessary to carry out my duties in my role as a trustee. Over the last eight and a half years, I have created and developed relationships with other local leaders that will continue to enhance the prosperity of Mesilla by working together on projects that benefit one another and Mesilla. I am knowledgeable on the Town's ordinances, budget, revenue sources, financial challenges, and infrastructural needs.

2. 1) Preserving and maintaining the rich history, culture, character, and beautiful uniqueness that Mesilla has to offer  
2) Addressing the aging infrastructure needs of the Town and finding additional revenue sources to address these



needs 3) Continuing to listen to the concerns and needs of the residents and the vision they would like to see for Mesilla 4) Public Safety 5) Supporting our local businesses 6) Maintaining our Green Belt 7) Parking concerns 8) Affordable, and available, housing.

3. 1) Promoting and showcasing the fiestas and events that the Town of Mesilla is well-known for and creating additional opportunities to bring other events to Mesilla 2) Utilization of marketing and tourism dollars available from the State and other resources to continue to promote and market the Town of Mesilla regionally, state-wide and nationally 3) Increase sales and opportunities for businesses in Mesilla; local businesses are the foundation of a thriving community that depends on tourism.

4. I would continue to support and encourage community engagement and involvement at board meetings and other events to help residents feel more connected and invested in their community. Utilizing our community center and partnering with local agencies to organize community events such as blood drives, health fairs, job fairs or other events that also provide for opportunities for our residents to volunteer their time and service. Maintaining our parks and our walking and bike paths.



**Veronica S. Garcia**  
**Candidate for Town of Mesilla**  
**Trustee**

1. I believe being a 3rd generation Mesilla resident has given me the insight

on what are the needs of our committee. Running for my second term as a trustee for Mesilla only shows that I am committed and still have so much more work to do. I feel I have grown not only as a trustee but as a person. It is a very rewarding position to be able to be a positive influence. With the support of my community, we will accomplish greater things on my next term.

2. Safety should be at the top of the list on every elected official. It is important that our residents and visitors feel safe in our beautiful community. A safe place also opens the doors to many avenues such as more tourism, new development, businesses. Preserve our historic culture is another top priority. Continue to improve our historical zones and protect our landmarks. Mesilla has a lot of history. Lastly, empower our community to have a voice and be heard.

3. Tourism has been Mesilla's biggest revenue. I will continue to work with our elected officials to provide more support to our local businesses. Whether it's promoting our town via social media, billboards, and special events. Growth is inevitable, but it needs to be looked at carefully. Mesilla's families have lived here for generations. Not only is Mesilla a historical town but so is our way of living, full of traditional values. There needs to be a balance in growth/tradition.

4. Continue to have safety at the top of the list. Support our local businesses and residents and listening/acting on their needs. Improve our historic zones. Too many abandoned buildings in poor care create an eye sore. Provide more outdoor activities such walking paths, park improvements, community involvement programs.

Support our town's staff in providing more training and also better record keeping, software, and permit application improvements. Permits requests need to be streamlined.



**Priscilla A. Sandoval**  
**Candidate for Town of Mesilla**  
**Trustee**

1. Business owner for over 35 years, Mesilla historian, La Morena Walking

Tours guide, Past president Las Cruces farmers market, Founding member and past president Dia De los Muertos celebrations Mesilla, Commissioner planning and zoning Mesilla, Committee member architectural styles, Past member Leones De Mesilla, Education New Mexico State University certificate bookkeeping, NMSU studies included education and NM history

2. Public safety added police protection for all. Representation and Equality for all residents and business owners. Preserve Mesillas historic significance. Quality of life.

3. Police presence on plaza and in our neighborhoods. Staff the visitor center daily including high traffic weekends. Merchant/business associations

4. Codes enforcement needs to address entire town.



**CITY OF LAS CRUCES MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

**QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

1. Describe the qualifications and relevant experiences that have prepared you to be a municipal judge.
2. What are your top priorities for the municipal court?
3. What alternatives to incarceration do you support for nonviolent crime?
4. What steps would you take to improve the municipal court system?

**Anthony F. Filosa**  
**Candidate for Las Cruces Muncipal Judge**

Candidate has not responded.

**LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD**

1. What are the skills and background experiences that equip you to be a school board member?
2. What are the strength and weaknesses of your public schools?
3. What is your position on bilingual/multicultural education? Explain.
4. How can your district improve reading and math literacy?

**DISTRICT 1**



**Patrick D. Nolan**  
**Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 1**

1. I have spent a lot of time in my career around our educational system. I served as a union representative for public school employees for 7 years. I currently work for an organization that provides after school programs to our schools. I am also a parent of an LCPS student. I also recognize the enormous impact they have in our community and the impacts they have in the lives of our students. Our schools need strong advocacy and support to fulfill their critical mission, and I'm prepared for the ...

2. Our strengths are many. The one I often point to is the staff in our schools that are performing small and big accomplishments every day. It's our staff and leadership that

drives the work happening in our schools. While funding continues to be a challenge, we are looking at unprecedented funding levels in our state. This potential funding presents an opportunity for our schools to take big steps forward. Our weakness is in how we engage with partners outside of the school district.

3. Our bilingual culture we have here in LCPS needs to be celebrated and supported. This begins with putting needed resources into our bilingual education classrooms. It also means we listen to our dual language teachers as they are the closest to this issue and know how vital it is. Celebrating our multicultural environment is crucial to building a shared understanding and recognition of what a special place we all get to call home is.

4. While the mechanics of how we improve reading and math literacy varies from school to school, it begins with putting resources directly towards this critical issue. Early intervention is also key. When we fail to address this issue

early, those learning issues continue to grow. We have many priority issues as a district, each is important. Through smart strategic planning we can identify these high level goals and I certainly believe this should be one of those goals.



## Joseph W Sousa Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 1

1. As a veteran and a parent I possess several skills that are needed to be on the school board. The ability to listen and understand is a core skill that I learned during my six years in the Air Force as well as working 911 dispatch at multiple locations here in Las Cruces. Deescalation is a skill learned from these jobs. It is hard to explain situations to anyone when they are argumentative or upset. Being able to calmly listen to the situation and understand the problem is a skill that I possess.

2. Strengths that the Las Cruces public schools are in their teachers. The compassion they have for the students is amazing. Currently one of the problems is retaining these excellent teachers. The shortage around the US is hitting the lower pay scaled states the hardest. When classes do not have an interpreter some of our bilingual or English as a second language students do not understand assignments. This might be a cause of one of the big issues at the high school level, attendance.

3. As a boarder state, New Mexico is in a prime location to teach and instruct the bilingual/ multicultural students. A shortfall of the Las Cruces school district is having bilingual staff. This is not just the teachers but the teaching aids in the classes as well. As the spouse of a LCPS teacher I understand it is more than just Spanish speaking students in the district. In some instances the parents of students do not speak English. Language barriers when talking to parents is also a big issue.

4. Teaching to kids on their individual level is a way to bring kids up to grade level. Some schools offer after school programs to students. Most of these programs go above and beyond exciting the kids to these select programs. By bringing in more reading or math central programs aimed at the students who might need more assistance, we can catch the kids up who are falling behind. If there is an after school scheduling error, an online fun program for the kids engaging them on their level.

## District 4



## Julia E. Ruiz Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 4

1. My skills and background experiences that equip me to be a school board member include being a product of the public schools, an NMSU graduate and a working mother/grandmother in the legal field. My education and experience along with leadership skills and my understanding of the importance of being of service makes me a strong candidate for the school board.

2. The strengths of our public schools are due to our passionate and dedicated teachers who are certified

professional educators. Our schools are located close to residential areas so that our students can walk or bike to school and bus transportation is available. A weakness of our public school system is that teacher to student ratio is too large making it difficult for teachers to provide individual student attention to meet critical education needs of reading, writing and math skills.

3. As an immigrant from Delicias, Chihuahua Mexico and having learned English on my own I believe it is important to assimilate, immerse, learn and embrace the culture and traditions of the United States as well as valuing our own culture and history. Teaching practices need to help students transition from their native language to English.

4. Our district can improve reading and math literacy by assessing and developing a strategic plan at each grade level that identifies and focuses on basic subjects such as reading, writing, and math so that students can achieve the competency needed to enter the workforce or continue to higher education. The major goal of our public school must be to identify the educational needs of our students so they can be productive and capable contributors to our society and the work force.



## Edward Posey Howell Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 4

1. I have devoted my entire adult life to teaching and training children of all ages and backgrounds through afterschool and church related programs. In addition to the educational component of this work I have provided leadership in the operations of these programs, acting as either a board member or head of the various boards. My experience as a business owner for 33 years and my degree in finance gives me insight into the functioning of large and complex organizations.

2. With any large organization you have some parts that function well and others that do not. The major strengths of a school district are its parents and teachers who hopefully are pursuing the same goal of a good education and preparation for the students. Unfortunately, this is not happening in our district at this time. Its weaknesses are due to poor leadership in many of the schools, poor leadership from the board and a real lack of support from the parents.

3. Our country is made up of people from every corner of the globe. This should be celebrated as it makes us unique among all the countries of the world. In addition to our form of government, our language should unite our country so we can work together to succeed. While we can all celebrate our heritage, we must have a common language, English. The best way to learn any language is through immersion and that has been proven to be effective. Our students can do this and succeed.

4. The most effective way to improve the reading and math scores is to free the teachers to teach. They are burdened with non-teaching requirements by the administration rather than focusing on the fundamentals need to prepare our students for success in the future.



## Teresa Maxine Tenorio Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 4

1. As Board President, I set agendas, run meetings and speak to media. I gained insight as an advisor for our community schools and for our community college. I was our first chair of Finance Subcommittee. Now I serve on Equity Council. I am an At-Large Rep for the NMSBA Board of Directors and serve on their Resolutions Committee. I am present and engaging. I am networked with relationships across LCPS and NM. I lead with integrity, transparency, empathy and grace. I am a parent of 3 LCPS students.

2. We are weakened by slow bureaucratic outside processes, insufficient capital outlay funds, and rising costs of construction. Columbia Elementary has had several delays and I push for progress, but there are larger systems at play. Our strength is our district employees who have been through a lot; their mettle has been tested. They deserve their work to be fully supported and appreciated by stable, respectable leadership. We have great community partners who are enhancing student experiences.

3. My use of Spanish is an act of resistance to the punishment and trauma upon my parents as children for speaking Spanish at school. I am grateful LCPS provides the Bilingual Seal program, which prepares bilingual/multilingual students for postgrad opportunities. Our emerging bilinguals need attention, more support and consistency. Multicultural education is essential. To meet Martinez/Yazzie, LCPS must improve cultural diversity and its depth of cultural knowledge in curricula across all grades.

4. The board is partnering with Cooperative Education Services NM to develop ground-up strategic plans using stakeholder input and audits. Audits will identify what specifically is needed. I want to align our board meeting agendas using S.M.A.R.T board goals. I want us to improve reading and math literacy, improve school attendance rates, and measure student readiness for post-secondary success. I support more literacy coaches for teachers, student tutoring sessions, and evidence-based approaches.

## DISTRICT 5



## Jose L. Aranda Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 5

1. I have been in education or relevant fields for over 30 years. First as a student who went through public schools, and later after college, as a student-teacher, substitute teacher, librarian, and college instructor. I have taught extensively at the community college level, am a parent of a student in LCPS, am a sports official, passionate about lifelong learning, and interested in creating effective policy.

2. Strengths: Nice, caring people who work for the district at all positions. Ample use of technology in the classroom. Vision & Mission Statements that addresses: caring, equity, civic engagement, & celebrates diversity. Weaknesses: Inadequate mental health resources & services for all students. The need to address teacher burnout and improve teacher retention. Lack of leadership stability due to



constant superintendent searches.

3. For English Language Learners (ELL), this works if it is done right (according to theory and best practices), and with the ultimate goal of getting these students into English-only classes within 1 to 2 years. The content should be the same. I support extra resources, such as tutoring, for these students to accomplish this goal of inclusion. I also support the bilingual education that makes students truly bilingual (i.e., not for ELL). This is different, with different outcomes.

4. I don't believe in re-inventing the wheel, so a back-to-the-basics approach that involves the use of more print books & research, the use and access to more libraries, their collections and expertise, and mandatory tutoring for those students not meeting proficiency, especially in elementary school. My goal is to see LCPS improve both our students' and schools' rankings and grades every year. Include teacher expertise at all phases and levels too.

### **Ernest B. Carlson IV, Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 5**

Candidate has not responded.



### **Carol Lynn Cooper Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 5**

1. In New Mexico public schools, I developed skills to identify and use information, and in every job I have had since, the roles of student and teacher have been most significant. I helped

raise my two children, Gary and Evan Thurm, and I have been a public accountant for more than 40 years, helping clients identify and use their resources to accomplish their goals.

2. I count the heart for students and preparation of our teaching staff and the support of our administration as huge strengths; the weakness I see is not with the "school" part of public schools as it is with the "public" part of public schools. We (the public) are somehow failing to convey through our words and actions how valuable this education is; we permit, perhaps even encourage, too many distractions and settle for too little genuine understanding.

3. Each of us is different from every other human being. That observation often makes us feel isolated, but learning to speak another language or learn about a different culture and get to experience the same joys and sadness, fears and hopes, the observation gives way to the realization that each of us is needed and valued. Our lives are enriched, and our hearts grow.

4. Perhaps all of us- parents, teachers, administrators, prospective employers should have an expectation of excellent performance by our students. We know what excellence in reading and math looks like. We can always strive to improve instruction and curriculum, but the student is the only one who can ask questions when not understanding, practice as directed and needed, persevere until the obstacles are overcome.



### **Edward Frank Candidate for LCPS School Board, District 5**

1. I am a retired educator who spent 39 years in a public school classroom. I taught math from grades 7 through 12, as well as community college. I was also a school board member in Las Cruces for almost 5 years. I am an active member of NEA-NM Retired. When working in groups I strive to collaborate and build consensus.

2. We have a great staff and a diverse community of students. Extracurricular activities, like band, are extraordinary. Although great things are happening in our schools, there are skeptics who believe our schools are underperforming. We need to do a better job of communicating our successes and asking for help with our weaknesses. Also, the lack of continuity at the superintendent level has inhibited our ability to set and maintain long-term goals, and to improve as a district.

3. Ideally, all graduates of LCPS should be bilingual. For non-English speaking students, bilingual education is vital for their success. I believe multicultural education improves outcomes for underperforming students.

4. We can improve reading skills with consistent assessment and remediation; this can be done informally in the classroom without the use of standardized tests. Math skills can be improved with the use of hands-on activities that promote concepts. Increasing student confidence will also improve their outcomes. This is all enhanced with parental involvement.

## **GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTION**

Shall the Advisory Board of the New Mexico State University Doña Ana Community College District be authorized to issue up to \$16,000,000 of general obligation

bonds for the purpose of erecting, furnishing, constructing, purchasing, remodeling and equipping buildings and utility facilities, exclusive of stadiums; making other real property

improvements; purchasing grounds; and purchasing and installing computer hardware and software; or any combination of these purposes?

## **DOÑA ANA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

### **QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DOÑA ANA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AT-LARGE SUPERVISOR**

1. **What are the skills and background experiences that equip you to be a member of your Soil and Water Conservation or Watershed District (SWCD or WD)?**
2. **What are your top priorities for your SWCD/WD?**
3. **What are your top priorities for protecting watersheds?**
4. **How will you provide public awareness and education about SWCD/WD issues?**

The Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts that encompass the majority of New Mexico's land area. The district is an independent subdivision of state government, governed by a Board of Supervisors, local landowners and residents who are either elected or appointed. Supervisors are elected on a nonpartisan basis to 4-year staggered terms and serve without salaries. The supervisors work with the rest of the governing body to conserve the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, and protect the tax base. They coordinate assistance from all available sources – public, private, local, state and federal – to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns.

See: [daswcd.org/](http://daswcd.org/) for more information



No picture provided

### **Daniel Arthur Nelson Candidate for Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor**

1. I'm a transplant to New Mexico in the past we have always lived in large cities until we moved to Chaparral NM 5 years ago. In September 2023 I was appointed to the board of supervisors Doña Ana soil and water conservation district.

2. Getting people to know about the resources we offer. Weed control, water management, and land use to make the land better.

3. The goal is to work with many agencies that control the watersheds. The watersheds are important today but tomorrow is very key to the county we live in.

4. I have been going to the meetings which meet on second Thursday of the month for a few months. The meetings are open to the public with public input. Then going to community meetings around Doña Ana talking to people about the resources we offer to the public in New Mexico.

