

Candidate Responses

Questions for the Candidates for Mayor and City Council

(Responses limited to 75 words each.)

1. What do you hope to accomplish during the next four years?
2. Identify three issues in the City of Las Cruces that, in your opinion, can be addressed by city government and explain how you would resolve them.
3. Give two examples of issues that can be resolved by city and county governments working together.

Mayor

Dolores Connor



1. Public Safety and the funding of our Police and Fire must be first on the list. Bringing us back to basics. I plan to lead the city to take those services seriously and to focus attention on ensuring all basic services are provided for. In addition to public safety, cutting red tape at City Hall is a must to bring economic success to our community.

2. Public Safety, which includes meeting our requirements for fire stations (of which we are short four) and funding for completion of the 911 Center and public safety campus.

Second, improving and reviewing the City's permitting process. Third, we are lacking in recreational areas for our kids to play at, so I would follow through on the long held plan to relocate city services from the Hadley area and reclaim that land for our kids.

3. City and county government are partners in the operation of our Animal Services Center. As Vice Chair of the Board, we have taken a failed operation to one that is operating well. We are building on a regional seven-year plan to eliminate euthanasia and increase community outreach. Secondly, the 2040 Vision Plan, which began in 2006 has not been finalized and we must move forward to complete the adoption of this plan.

Michael R. Huerta



1. In this difficult economy, politicians should not be exempt from the sacrifices everyone else has to make. That is why I strongly disagree with my opponents voting to give themselves a 15% pay increase. On day one of our new terms, I want to cut the salary of city politicians in half, saving \$300,000 over the next four years. We need to restore faith in local government, and it starts with salary cuts.

2. I support the city immediately halting and ending the failed red light

cameras. This program, supported by both of my opponents, does not increase public safety, sends local money to a foreign corporation, and violates our citizens rights to due process. Second, the city needs to end its attack on small businesses, starting with the condemnation of Moongate Water Company. Finally, the city needs quit ignoring poverty in the community.

3. The city should partner with the County to help build Santa Teresa into an economic powerhouse. Growth in the county, including the Spaceport, will only help Las Cruces. Over the next 20 years, we can see great growth in this corridor. Secondly, we need to partner and take a comprehensive approach to cell tower proliferation. We must work with the county, state and carriers to modernize laws and regulations.

Ken Miyagishima



1. I want to continue the excellent progress made by the current council in terms of good financial stewardship of city resources, strong economic development, enhanced public safety, maintaining balance in the city's growth and development, continuing to build an atmosphere of openness and transparency in city government, and improving the quality of life for all Las Cruces, not just a few.

2. Our most important job is to deliver the services that residents want in the most efficient and effective way

possible. This involves careful financial management and strong customer service. Economic development needs to support local businesses that have already shown a commitment to the area as well as attracting new firms. Finally, good planning will help support a higher quality of life for residents as well as efficient use of resources.

3. Regional planning and economic development are two key initiatives that can only be accomplished by close cooperation among the city, the county and all other local entities. Public safety, water resources, environmental protection, animal services, recreation, school siting and transportation require close cooperation as well; it's difficult to think of any area in which we are not actively seeking greater communication and coordination of our city and county efforts.

City Council, District 1

Natalie R. Chadborn



1. Ensure that the core issues of the city budget are: Public Safety, Infrastructure, Job Creation, And with taxpayer participation, other projects may be possible. Specifics: Fund the 911 call center, Hire more police officers, Street maintenance process, Repeal increase in

Impact Fees (TAX), Reform city Codes and processes, Work with city hall employees to improve attitudes and service towards taxpayers.

2. Create jobs by making the city of Las Cruces government more business friendly by limiting cumbersome regulations. All citizens who come before council must be treated respectfully. I would work with the City Manager and department heads to help the employees working for them to understand that all of our paychecks are funded by the very taxpayers coming into the city hall. I would eliminate fees for appeals to Council.

3. Two examples of issues that the city and county can work together on would be the funding of the new 911 call center and opening a library for the county residents.

Miguel G. Silva



1. Downtown is the City's heart; thus, a priority is to complete Mainstreet. As the City's governmental and cultural core, prosperity will grow and spread with jobs, retail shops, restaurants, galleries, theaters and our nationally recognized Farmer's

Market. An added priority is to continue lobbying for funds to upgrade ageing District One infrastructure needs. I am proud of the participation opportunities our residents have in governmental decisions and will work for more openness and transparency.

2. One--Public safety. Resolution: completion of the new 911 Center; increase the number of Police officers; increase neighborhood watch groups. Two--Country Club (Premier Park). Resolution: Assist with an appropriate productive mediation process. Three--Comprehensive Plan. Resolution: a strong Plan charts our growth and development for the next 10 years. Through public participation, the Plan should bring everyone together allowing us to move forward with a City we can all be proud of.

3. Over the past four years, both governments have been working collaboratively through the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley in addressing regional animal concerns. The level of attention is unparalleled compared to prior formation of the ASVMV. I foresee upgraded facilities including expanded spay and neuter programs. Economically, coordinate and maximize combined assets to benefit all projects from the Santa Teresa area and other developments attracting new business to create a win-win situation for everyone.

City Council, District 4

Aaron Henry Diaz



1. I want to strategically shift our priorities in a fiscally responsible manner. I will emphasize public safety, work to maintain our roads, and improve traffic flow. Additionally I will work to foster a more business friendly environment that will bring jobs to our community.

2. I want to address gang problems by doubling the size of the gang task force unit. I will resolve traffic flow problems in District Four by promoting the construction of more east and west arterial roads. I hope to develop a healthy atmosphere for our businesses by encouraging the development of a diverse economic community.

3. City and County can work collectively to improve the quality of life for all people of the Mesilla Valley. Parks and Recreation should be a shared responsibility because they are enjoyed by all people in our region. Additionally, ensuring that all citizens of our area are provided with sufficient fire and 911 services.

Nathan P. Small



1. I will continue my focus on District 4 neighborhoods with projects like the El Molino Flood Control Project, Valley Drive & South Main Street reconstructions and other street improvements. I will emphasize the same public/private partnerships

that have brought new investment and jobs to our district, and will work to strengthen neighborhood organizations as key elements in a healthy community. We will continue our record of sound fiscal management and efficient city service.

2. The City must maintain public safety. I support increased investment in the LCPD and LCFD, combined with community building that improves communication and community policing. The City must maintain infrastructure. Since 2007, we have nearly quadrupled our street maintenance budget. I support increased investment in road and utility maintenance. The City must support existing industries and help diversify our economy. Re-vitalization and promoting partnerships with NMSU and the private sector require City leadership.

3. 15,000+ animals a year to go to the Animal Shelter (ASCMV). Many are euthanized. Working with a citizen committee and the ASCMV Board with Chairman Billy Garrett we crafted City/County ordinance revisions to reduce intake and save lives. The City and County can revitalize Picacho Avenue, leveraging the manufacturing, high tech, and renewable energy industries on the West Mesa with the retail potential of Picacho and surrounding developments in the County and City.