

# Candidate Responses

## City Council, District 2

### Fred Barela Espinosa

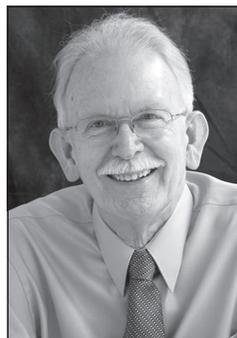


1. Within the next four years I plan to strengthen our police department to care for our growing city's needs. With the rise in population by over 27,000 in the last ten years, our police department has kept the same number of staff since the early 2000s. Additionally, we must revamp how the city works with business small and large. The amount of red tape involved to start a business or development is extremely lengthy.

2. Addressing the parks and recreation budget should be a priority for the future of our children. Working to be a business friendly city should be at the top of our agenda. Creating a stronger work force will strengthen our economy and allow for businesses to thrive in Las Cruces. I want to work at creating a more unified city staff where the departments are led and supported by city government.

3. By closely analyzing the relationship between the city and county, it is important to create a bridge between both governments. As the city grows, it is vital that we jointly work for the benefit of our citizens creating a seamless transition in the areas of property development, utilities, public safety, fire and supportive programs. Working to create a diplomatic connection between both areas of government will instill unity and pride in our community now and in the future.

### Charles B. Scholz



1. Bring the infrastructure in all my neighborhoods up to modern standards. No neighborhood should be left behind. Involve citizens in the governing process by creating neighborhood associations to promote neighborhood pride and maintain property values. Preserve historical areas through the development of special districts. We need to bring the past along with us as we grow and change. Our recent rapid growth makes it imperative that we care for the existing neighborhoods in our city.

2. Improve east-west cross-town traffic access by building a bridge (not an interchange) over Interstate 25 linking Madrid to Telshor and by opening up a cross-campus route south of NMSU. To ensure the quality of rental housing, create a maintenance code and uniform rental contract for the benefit of landlords and tenants. Encourage planned growth by offering incentives to locate residential and commercial development where access to shopping, transportation and infrastructure already exists.

3. Planning and zoning: Because the city is surrounded by the county, the way the county handles development can directly or indirectly affect the city. The ETZ is a stopgap, not a solution. A joint city/county comprehensive plan could help this situation Water management: Potable water, wastewater and storm runoff do not originate or stop at city borders. A plan to coordinate water providers, to treat wastewater and to control runoff must be implemented cooperatively.

### Gregory Z. Smith



1. We must embrace the direct relationship between the quality of life we seek in Las Cruces and the availability of rewarding jobs and stable infrastructure. Among other things, we must take advantage of the unique opportunities offered by being where we are when Spaceport America and Union Pacific come on line. This community will be best served if we have a wide range of career opportunities and a wide range of services and amenities available.

2. New, rewarding jobs employing a wide range of skills and experience can be the result of effective, innovative economic development policies. This city's strategic commercial capacity is strengthened by infrastructure and services supporting, enhancing, and incentivizing small business, entrepreneurial efforts, and a range of business opportunities. The perception of our community's quality of life by those considering moving, starting, or continuing their homes or businesses here can be directly impacted by the public services available.

3. Development is one pressing issue on which the city and county can work together. By better coordinating what is expected in both jurisdictions, concerns about annexing standard developments are reduced, and the success of the greater community is better assured. Very much related to development, coordinated public transportation efforts can reduce the funding required for roads and parking lots. Such efforts can better connect tourism, commerce, work, recreation, home, and school across our community.

## Municipal Presiding Judge

### Questions for the Candidate for Municipal Court Judge

(Responses limited to 75 words each.)

1. Describe the experience and qualifications needed to become a municipal judge.
2. Give two examples of issues for the municipal court and explain how you would address them.

### Melissa Miller-Byrnes



1. In addition to being a attorney, a judge must have judicial administration training, education and legal experience required which include: administering the budget, addressing personnel issues, setting policies, pleadings, and

practices for the court. Becoming a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management from the National Center of State Courts provided me with the skills to be an effective Judge from the bench as well as a leader for the city's third branch of government.

2. The facility and court community awareness are two issues. The municipal court affords valuable services to the community by reducing barriers to the citizens' access to justice. The facility is a barrier to the public's access to justice because of the limited space made available. The Council makes the determination where the Municipal Court is housed. I continue to demand the appropriate space for the court to conduct its services in a meaningful manner.

### Frank Norman Chavez



1. The City of Las Cruces mandates its Municipal Judges to be lawyers. I am a lawyer in good standing with the New Mexico State Bar. I have been both a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney. I have represented Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, and the State

of New Mexico, both as a public servant, an as a private practitioner. Please see [electfrankchavez.com](http://electfrankchavez.com) for a more detailed resume.

2. Administration: I will treat the staff with respect, work with the City Council, and get Las Cruces citizens out of the hot sun, while they stand in line, if at all possible. Hearing cases: I will apply the law to the facts consistently, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation or gender. I will be fair and courteous to every party, every witness, every attorney, in every case, every time.

## LAS CRUCES MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2011

A municipal election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. This municipal election will fill positions for Mayor, City Council Districts 1, 2 and 4, and the Presiding Judge for the Las Cruces Municipal Court.

If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on election day, a resident of the city and are registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this municipal election. If you live in Districts 1, 2, or 4, you will also be eligible to vote for a city council candidate from your district. All eligible voters can vote for the Municipal Presiding Judge and the Mayor.

If you have a question concerning the election, please contact the Las Cruces City Clerk's Office at (575) 541-2115 or online at their website: <http://www.las-cruces.org>. The Voters Guide is also available online at [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)

### VOTING INFORMATION REGISTERING TO VOTE

Anyone who wants to vote in this election must have already registered to vote in Doña Ana County AND be a resident within the municipal boundaries of the City of Las Cruces. If you have not yet registered to vote, you have already missed the deadline, and will be ineligible to vote in this election. The deadline was October 11, 2011.

### VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY Absentee Voting

Any person eligible to vote may vote by absentee ballot. You do not need to give a reason to vote absentee. Applications for absentee ballots may be requested in person, from the Las Cruces City Clerk's Office at 700 North Main Street or by phone (575-541-2115). The City Clerk's Office will verify the application information and mail your absentee ballot to you. Friday, November 4, is the last day the City Clerk's Office will mail out absentee ballots. The ballot contains instructions for completion and return.

If you apply for an absentee ballot and RECEIVE it, you must vote that ballot. If you apply for but DO NOT RECEIVE the absentee ballot, go to the City Clerk's Office by Saturday, November 5. Your completed ballot must be received only at the City Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. A voter or a member of that voter's immediate family may deliver that voter

absentee ballot in person to the City Clerk's Office, provided that the voter signed the outer envelope of the absentee ballot.

### Early Voting

Any person registered to vote within the Las Cruces city limits may vote absentee in person on a paper ballot at the City Clerk's Office beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 12, ending at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5. Saturday early voting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the following dates: October 22, October 29 and November 5, 2011.

NOTE: ABSENTEE BALLOTS MAY BE ACCEPTED IN SIGNED AND SEALED ENVELOPES AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE UNTIL 7 PM ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011

### VOTING OFFENSES

Voters are obligated to report voting offenses to the City Clerk or the District Attorney. Voting offenses are:

- Any form of campaigning within 100 feet of a building containing a polling place.
- Using, possessing, or carrying alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of a polling place.
- False voting, such as, voting or offering to vote although not qualified, voting in another's name, voting more than once during a single election, or assisting another person in committing a voting offense.

### ELECTION DAY

On November 8, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Some of the precincts have been changed to accommodate the new redistricted boundaries. Polling place locations and addresses may be found in the Las Cruces Sun-News, The Las Cruces Bulletin, or on the Las Cruces city website, [www.las-cruces.org](http://www.las-cruces.org).

There will be someone who speaks Spanish at each of the polling places and at the City Clerk's Office.

### RUN-OFF ELECTION

If no candidate receives forty percent (40%) of the votes cast for a particular office, runoff election shall be held within forty-five (45) days after certification of the results of the election. The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the office in question shall automatically become the candidates at the runoff election (from City Charter, Sec.7.05c).

### Do you know your district?

This year, the city's municipal voting districts have changed, as well as some voting precincts. This map shows the new districts. For details, you may visit the League of Women Voters website, [www.lwvglc.org/lwvglc\\_voter\\_info.html](http://www.lwvglc.org/lwvglc_voter_info.html). There you can enlarge the map to pinpoint your street to determine your district and precinct. For further information, contact the Las Cruces City Clerk's office at 541-2115.