

District 5

Fuller, William

1. As a dad, I feel we need to use more resources for our Teens. We need to give Teens an outlet and place to express themselves in a proper manner. We also need more resources to help those with mental illnesses and their families.
 2. The current council has done a good job of trying to stimulate employment, Yet there is more we can do, I think we need to take another look at the Minimum wage bill, and delay (if we can) the next increase if our unemployment rate is still 7.7 percent or close to that. This will give time for the smaller businesses to prepare for the next increase.
 3. Are the public facilities currently being used to near capacity? If not, we do not need to expand them but upgrade and restore them.
 4. One way is to create new housing areas or change zoning rules to allow houses and multi units to be built. This is not a popular idea but it will meet the immediate needs. Otherwise this is a city wide concern and we will need to work together, no one person has the answers.



Montanez, Steven

1. I want to make District 5 my first priority. For the last 8 years the focus has been on other areas of town and very little to our district. I would like to work toward improving our infrastructure, repairing our roads, building more parks for our families, and increased economic development in our District; to look out for the best interest of the voters, implementing policies that create jobs and keep our young people here.
 2. Local Business is the heart and soul of our economy. Its time to develop a process that encourages business owners to want to start businesses here. We also have opportunity for outside companies to come here and provide good paying jobs if we can be more competitive with our surrounding cities. Film, aerospace, are two that are in the works however our city must look into other options to keep our Las Cruces citizens employed.
 3. Our children are in dire need of more facilities and they must be made a first priority The city has collected Impact fees for parks for our children yet they fail to spend that money on what it was meant for. Parks will be a big priority if I am elected. Other facilities will be addressed as they are needed however I do feel its time for our children to be made a better priority.
 4. The City Council has been very unfriendly to multifamily development. This has resulted in the shortage of homes in Las Cruces and decline in housing over the years. The city staff has taken great steps to streamline the process of developing more units and affordable homes. It will take time to establish a process that will work for the city government and for our development community to increase the availability of homes in Las Cruces.



Sorg, Gill

1. My top priorities include infrastructure improvement and economic development. We need improved infrastructure – such as high-speed internet – to grow and attract business, and more, higher-paying jobs will bring new wealth to the city and reduce poverty. This new wealth, in turn, should be used to improve infrastructure even further, such as building parks in District 5. Over the past eight years, parks have already doubled in number.
 2. In addition to infrastructure improvements, I favor incentives aimed at attracting new and more diverse businesses, including but not limited to value added agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, film and other media. Promoting tourism, as our public land National Monuments OMDP can do, also brings outside money to the city.
 3. District 5 needs more parks and recreational activities. In addition, my goal is for every household to be within walking distance of their job, school, a drug or grocery store, and a park should be within a safe walking or bicycling distance. I will promote water splash features in our new parks with added shade structures including trees. New libraries are needed on the East Mesa side of the city.



4. I plan to: Aggressively increase affordable housing many ways from many sources such as grants, public/private partnerships, tax credits etc. Increase the public funding revolving fund to \$1 million and provide for increasing Habitat for Humanity housing incentives. Promote antipoverty policies such as better education and paths to better paying jobs. The City staff must research all possible ways to provide more affordable housing.

District 6

Flores, Yvonne

1. Priorities for the City: Implementing a plan that employs language and factors that focus on connectivity for all residents to meet the needs of a growing population; and keeping our residents safe. Public safety is of utmost importance. Consequently, funding our police and fire departments is essential to have the personnel and equipment to keep our residents safe.
 2. Economic development must utilize natural resources, wind and solar energy which are sustainable. Businesses must be allowed to have licensing and inspections coordinated to allow expeditious approval and allow business to prosper. The City has a wealth of resources for businesses to explore. The airport management advisory board should stimulate economic growth with the current land available for expansion, creating businesses necessary to serve travelers, and encouraging more travel and industry.
 3. The City has proposed facilities of many kinds in the Plan4LasCruces. Additionally, more parks such as Desert Trails, for example, which preserve public lands, would flourish. Currently, the City is in its next phase of expanding the Regional Aquatic Center. I would like to see effective transportation services such as vans, shuttles, etc., at little or no cost to the City which would allow residents to enjoy the City in its entirety resulting in connectivity.
 4. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's population estimates, July 1, 2016, Las Cruces' population was 101,759; median household income (2015), \$41,330; per capita income (2015), \$22,132; persons in poverty, 24.4%; owner occupied homes were 55.4% from 201-2015 with median cost of ownership being over \$148,600. The greater need is affordable housing. Improved employment and education will alleviate the barriers for home ownership.



Levatino, Ceil

1. Economic development. I currently serve on both the Mayor's Economic Development committee and the Economic Development Policy Review Committee and have been asked by the members to chair the Policy Review committee. Job creation. With an unemployment rate higher than Albuquerque and Santa Fe it is critical that we continue the process outlined in our new 5 year Strategic Plan. I want to see new business relocate here and our local businesses expand.
 2. The city Council adopted a new 5 year Strategic Plan in May. The Strategic Plan consists of 20 priorities organized under four themes: Capital Improvements & Infrastructure, Communication, Involvement and Follow-up, Economic & Community Development, Education. Each of these 4 themes contain important strategies to improve our economic landscape. I encourage the public to visit the city website at www.las-cruces.org to learn more.
 3. As part of the strategic plan, the community will have council-approved, results-oriented plans for the expansion and improvement of parks, public facilities, sidewalks and median landscaping. Specifically, improvements to senior centers, library, museums and playgrounds will be addressed.
 4. There has been a long standing need for affordable housing. It is my hope that the city will officially recognize the problem and help Rose Garcia (a nationally recognized expert) with Tierra del Sol and other local organizations obtain the necessary funding from HUD, USDA, MFA, etc.. Final decisions should be made by council only after meetings with the various stakeholders and community at large.



Questions for the Candidates for Municipal Judge II (Limit of 75 words each)

(2 questions - 75 words each question)
 1. Describe the experience and qualifications you have that would make you an effective Municipal Judge.
 2. Discuss two of your ideas for improving the Municipal Court.

Goldbaum, Joy

1. Ms. Goldbaum has been a lawyer in the public sector for most of her 26 years at the Bar. She knows both sides, having prosecuted and defended in all State Courts. She has also served as a Domestic Violence hearing officer and knows how to conduct fair and orderly hearings while maintaining a calm, professional environment. She also has extensive experience working with self-represented litigants.
 2. Las Cruces needs a Homeless Court Program to manage frequent, minor non-violent offenses by individuals who suffer from substance use or mental health disorders. Incarceration is expensive and accomplishes nothing to address the root problems. The Court should consider offering occasional evening or weekend sessions to accommodate residents for whom the loss of a day's income is often a greater hardship than the fine they may end up owing.



Goodin, Nelson

1. I have over 25 years of legal experience. I was a prosecutor for over 10 and handled numerous domestic violence and dwi cases which are some of the cases in municipal court. I have experience as judge in both District and Magistrate Court. As a magistrate judge for over a year I presided over traffic and misdemeanor cases similar to the cases that are in municipal court. Thank you for support and vote.
 2. One of the biggest complaints I hear about municipal court is the wait time. I will work with the presiding judge to reduce that time and to make the court more accessible to our working citizens to reduce the time they must take off work to attend court. I will also seek to work with the mayor and city council to address funding issues for the court to improve access by the public.



Yalkut, Kent

1. I am the current Municipal Judge with over 4 years of experience. During my tenure I have heard over 80,000 cases involving traffic, criminal, animal control and codes matters. My career as a judge, Domestic Violence Special Commissioner, Special Assistant Attorney General, prosecutor, defense attorney and a member of the Community Corrections Board has allowed me to cover every aspect of the inner workings of the Municipal Court and the justice system.
 2. Both Judge Ryan and myself are working with the City Council to obtain a new courthouse. The current building is over 100 years old and a new facility would go a long way in better serving the people of Las Cruces. Further upgrading the existing computer system would allow expediting cases and allowing our citizens to avoid time spent in court while waiting to see a judge.



Voter Services Committee: Dale Yeo and Vicki Simons
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