

2019 VOTERS GUIDE



LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

(Formerly League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces)

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The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM) is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office in order to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. Because the League is nonpartisan, it DOES NOT support or oppose any political party or candidate. It DOES publish and distribute factual information for citizens to use when preparing to vote. It also studies issues, comes to conclusions through consensus and advocates for their adoption for the betterment of the community.

The information in this Voters Guide was obtained by means of questionnaires sent to all the candidates. Their answers are printed exactly as received by the League. Because of space restrictions, candidates are limited to a specific number of words. Also, lists are converted to paragraphs and responses are converted to normal text. Three dots at the end of a candidate's response indicate the word limit has been exceeded.

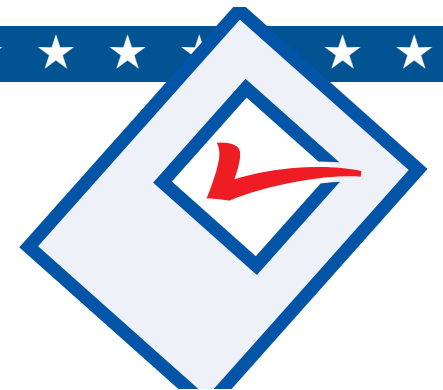
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LAS CRUCES REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

A Regular Local Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on election day, a resident of the city and registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this election. If you live in City Council Districts 1, 2, or 4, you are eligible to vote for a City Council candidate from your district. All eligible voters can vote for the offices of Mayor and Presiding Judge of the Las Cruces Municipal Court. Las Cruces Public Schools is also holding its election for School Board members in Districts 4 and 5.

If you have a question concerning the election, please contact the Doña Ana County Clerk's office at (575) 647-7428 or the online website: www.dacelections.com. The Voters Guide is also available online at the League's website, www.lwvglc.org.



THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

VOTING INFORMATION

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Anyone who wants to vote in this election must be registered to vote in Doña Ana County. You may register to vote at many locations and online. New this year is Same Day Registration. Voters will be able to register and cast a ballot on the same day during early voting. Same Day Registration will be available at Las Cruces City Hall, Doña Ana Community College Sunland Park, and the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office. Visit the Doña Ana County website at www.donaana-county.org or in person at the Bureau of Elections in the County Government Center to find out how to register.

Registration will be closed by the County Clerk at the end of Early Voting on Saturday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m.

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 are available now at NMVote.org through October 31, 2019.

You may vote absentee between October 8 and November 5, 7:00 p.m., 2019.

Note that no ballots will be provided over the counter to visitors to the clerk's office at any time.

You may mail or hand-deliver your completed ballot, but it must be received only at the County Clerk's Office no later than November 2, 2019. A voter or a member of that voter's immediate family may deliver that voter's absentee ballot in person to the County Clerk's Office, provided the voter signed the outer envelope of the absentee ballot. However, the voter may turn in their own absentee ballot at Voting Convenience Centers on Election Day.

Voting Convenience Centers

Doña Ana County uses Voting Convenience Centers (VCCs). This allows voting at any location where voters will receive their own true ballot containing the candidates running in their district. With VCCs there is no wrong place to vote.

Early Voting

Early voting will begin on Tuesday, October 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday) at the Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N.

Motel Blvd., and end Saturday, November 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Beginning October 19th, the following Early Voting locations will be open Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Early Voting Locations

1. New: Anthony City Hal - 820 Highway 478 - Anthony
 2. Delores C. Wright Educational Center - 400 E. Lisa Dr. - Chaparral
 3. Hatch High School - 170 E. Herrera Rd. - Hatch
 4. Doña Ana Community College Sunland Park- 3365 McNutt Rd. -Sunland Park
 5. Doña Ana County Government Center - 845 N. Motel Blvd - Las Cruces
 6. Sonoma Elementary School - 4201 Northrise Dr. - Las Cruces
 7. NMSU Corbett Center - 1600 International Mall - Las Cruces
- New: 8. Las Cruces City Hall - 700 N. Main St. - Las Cruces

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.

- Blocking the entrance to the voting location.

- Creating disorder or disruption at the polling place.

ELECTION DAY

On Tuesday, November 5, the voting convenience centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To find the complete list of 40 voting convenience centers and other election information such as an explanation of RANKED CHOICE VOTING, go to the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections website: www.dacelections.com.

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

MAYOR

THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Las Cruces has a Council-Manager form of government, with the City Council (Mayor and Councilors) setting policy that is carried out by an appointed City Manager. The Mayor is elected city-wide, and six Councilors are elected by district and for nonpartisan, 4-year staggered terms. The Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Work sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Information on meetings and public participation can be obtained by contacting the City Clerk at (575) 541-2115 or by going online to their website: www.las-cruces.org.

Salaries: Mayor - \$85,013; Councilors - \$34,005; Presiding Judge - \$106,546.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

(75 words each)

1. Identify two issues in the City of Las Cruces that can be addressed by City government and explain how you will resolve them.
2. How do we develop more diverse and friendly neighborhoods?
3. How will you address Las Cruces' critical need for more affordable housing?
4. What should Las Cruces do to address the recent problems with the recycling program?



Jorge Sanchez

1. I have gotten so many complaints on corruption within the city and I plan to step on it hard. I will have a No Tolerance policy and will make sure every single penny of the citizens of Las Cruces will be accounted for. I will also start clean-ups around the city and surrounding desert. Trash and plastics pile-up

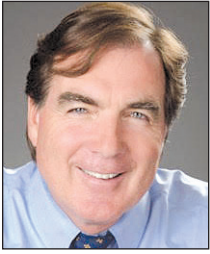
quick but don't decay quickly and garbage will become a very big problem in the near future.

2. We need to start getting the community more active and working with each other to bring more friendliness to our city. Put our differences aside and begin working together to benefit Las Cruces for future generations to come. We do not go left. We do not go right. We go forward.

3. I will bring more corporate jobs to Las Cruces and help the economy grow, which will allow more people to afford homes. I will help grow the industrial

part of Las Cruces. I also have a plan to help the homeless get back on their feet which will lower crime, drug addictions, and help in poverty.

4. We need to improve and invest more into better recycling programs. We can do this by creating and adopting previously established programs from other cities who create whole neighborhoods, profitable products, and overall more environmentally friendly organization which will in turn help take care of trash and other waste around the city of Las Cruces.



Gregory Z. Smith

1. Two related issues, careers and crime, stand out. Increased local career opportunities should reduce our crime rate here. More than simply adding to the number of police careers, this is about targeting growth opportunities in economic diversity for Las Cruces, especially for our young people.

Developing amenities such as innovation districts, parks, and entertainment; and expanding the City's role in community schools and municipal internship programs help us cultivate new businesses and diversity in careers.

2. This and #3 are inately related. We must integrate affordable and multiple family housing with market rate and other accommodations where appropriate; facilitate more zero-lot-line housing, neighborhood parks, and pedestrian friendly neighborhoods with trees and community hubs; and allow more "living above the shop" in those hubs. Such visioning includes conscious preservation of our built legacies, more I-Cubed (Innovative Infill Initiative) districts such as Amador Proximo, and more celebration of our diverse traditions.

3. Readily apparent things we need to do are expand the City's

Affordable Housing Land Bank and Trust Fund and increase local funding for affordable housing. What are less apparent are the needs to more innovatively integrate affordable with market rate housing, to rely less on winning grants, and to sponsor design competitions that raise the bar for what "affordable" looks like and how it integrates productively into our whole community. These things we can do.

4. We can develop our own recycling capabilities locally. Potentially working with existing, for-profit entities, we have to take action that is direct and local.

Thus, we increase regional jobs and reduce the costs and environmental impacts of shipping recyclables long distances. Solar furnaces can be developed to recycle the original recyclable, glass. Locating these new capabilities near existing rail lines, they can be used to transport products or produced raw materials to other markets.



Isabella Solis

1. Infrastructure City infrastructure projects should encourage economic growth, not stifle it. Public projects within city limits should include consistent and accurate communication by the city to impacted business owners and

residents, as well as a full cost/benefit review. Jobs Too many of our children leave Las Cruces because there are not enough good career jobs for them. Our city needs to implement pro-growth policies and make Las Cruces an attractive destination for companies.

2. I believe Las Cruces' neighborhoods are incredibly friendly and that it is one of our great strengths as a community. We need to maintain and grow that quality while continuing to be a welcoming city for all people. As Mayor I will encourage our neighborhoods to form more neighborhood associations that will foster an even greater sense of community and open communication.

3. I spent years working with government and community organizations to place families into affordable housing. As Mayor I will leverage that experience to increase options for citizens because I believe stable and affordable housing is a necessity for our Las Cruces families. We also need to grow our economy so our people have higher incomes

4. Many communities are struggling with this similar problem as the economics of recycling become more challenging. As Mayor, I would bring in national recycling leaders to build a plan that would work for Las Cruces both from a practical and environmental standpoint.



Mike Tellez

1. Establishing a long term care facility, through a private, nonprofit organization similar to La Clinica or Ben Archer, funded by private and public grants, to treat the serious problems Las Cruces struggles with in the areas of Mental Health and Drug Addiction.

Las Cruces City Economic Development in partnership with NMSU, MVEDA and the Las Cruces Public Schools can create significant partnerships for workforce readiness to invite economic growth into our area.

2. Neighborhoods must be safe to allow diversity and friendliness. We need to go back to the concept of neighborhood policing and community security. Letting communities know the officers who are tasked with protecting them removes the separation between law and life. Police substations in high risk neighborhoods will quickly show residents that there is protection for them and they will be more comfortable spending time creating a positive relationship in the community they are in.

3. Fixing the permitting and processing debacle that Las Cruces is famous for, for starters. I learned of a man who is ready and willing to build an entire neighborhood of low cost, affordable housing. He'd been waiting for more than 1.5 years to get the city's process for permitting and licensing to get

started. El Paso County offered to have his program up and running in 60 days. What a loss for Las Cruces.

4. Las Cruces needs to invite a private corporation into the area that specializes in the field of converting our recyclable materials into building materials, landscaping materials and ink for 3D printing and other purposes that are already established as productive and marketable. This plan can be formulated and developed through the NMSU Engineering program in close collaboration with Arrowhead High School and the city. It is just one way to turn problems into solutions.



Alexander Paige Baca Fresquez

1. A noticeable lack of neighborhood recreation opportunities is a popular concern among Las Cruces. This situation can be addressed by identifying locations throughout the city of Las Cruces that can be invigorated with valuable park and recreation investments. More sensible implementation of construction projects and construction contracts that insist on diligent planning, include common-sense incentives for timely completion and stipulate fair charges for time-budget overages can address the public's concern about infrastructure project inefficiencies.

2. With city investments in existing neigh-

borhoods, that provide desirable spaces for social interaction and recreational equipment accessible to residents of all ages, within walking distance of their homes, we can all become more physically active and socially engaged. With city development planning that features inclusive housing opportunities suitable for all incomes, and an abundance of public spaces and recreational opportunities, individuals, couples and families of all kinds can live, work, and play together.

3. By incentivizing local developers and builders to include sustainable and efficient entry-level homes in their long-term business plans we can encourage those members of our community to balance the housing needs and demands of our community with their interests as entrepreneurs. By enabling the creation and encouraging the expansion of home building cooperatives in Las Cruces people can trade their "sweat equity" in for an affordable home that suits their needs and esthetic.

4. By actively seeking volunteers and personnel in our community who are passionate about recycling we can do more door-to-door education about our recycling program. By enhancing the SCSWA recycle bin auditing program and the Recycle Coach program with potential investments in incentives for exceptional recyclers and post collection purifying infrastructures we can help the people of Las Cruces eliminate contaminants from our recycling stream and maximize the amount of materials we keep out of landfills.



Bev Courtney

1. One issue is the way city government continues to grow larger and larger competing and impeding local businesses. Hotels, housing developments, shopping centers, and media. Recently they added sixty new employment positions. This is an unfair advantage to privately owned companies with limited resources who must work through regulations, red tape, taxes, fees and pay mandates. Unfair water rates and park fees put burdens on families. We are already paying taxes for our parks...

2. Community centers are great as well as open spaces. Well maintained roads and wide sidewalks make a better environment.. Every neighborhood should be encouraged to have beautification projects. Code enforcement should keep trash and weeds out of sight better than what is currently happening now

3. The market will take care of it. The best thing the city can do is stop raising taxes. That added cost goes directly to the renter or buyer.

4. The recycling program is partnering with El Paso, Albuquerque and another city or two along the Rio Grande. The news articles I found said that our recycling material is not put in the landfill but goes to markets.

That's good. I have read that some of our trash has been sold to foreign countries like China who dumped it in the ocean. That is unethical and we should not sell it to become pollution. It is big business that manufactures such massive amounts of plastic and for us to become more environmentally friendly means one shouldn't use it so regularly and create the demand. Public campaigns would help educate us and more people would be concerned.



Jesusita Dolores Lucero

1. First order of business is the search for a City Manager to be implemented within the new council, with an emphasis on a person that understands Las Cruces, a large organization of employees and government regulations. Second, the budget and financial spending is in need of an overhaul. My financial experience brings a comprehensive plan to improve the outcomes of the audits within each department

2. The city must encourage mixed use zoning to ensure a diversity of housing types are included in all proposed housing master plans. Our citizens want and deserve a good quality of life that comes with careful planning and

inclusion of open space and recreational amenities, such as the Organ Mountains Monument. Amenities for existing neighborhoods can be included in both short and long term capital programming easily funded with current revenue sources.

3. Private developers build neighborhoods and houses. The city regulates and monitors the process to ensure consistency and code compliance. Working together is a must.

Mixed use zoning will work in new areas being planned for development while infill incentives make sense to bringing affordable housing into existing neighborhoods. Public private partnerships can be an effective way to make these projects viable and attractive for potential investors. I would ensure that we build those partnerships.

4. Recent problems with recycling stem from concerns in the borderland area including neighboring communities. Improvements can be made by expanding the education of consumers who use recycling bins and curbside programs. Mixing non recyclable items with clean recycled materials, increases the cost to separate and manage the program.

There are international trade issues that elected officials should be in tune with to keep viable trade channels open to support our recycling goals.



William Bill Mattiace

1. City Government needs to address compensation for police and fire personnel. It is unacceptable that Las Cruces is the second-largest city in New Mexico, and yet, according to the union spokesmen, our police and fire pay has slipped to sixth possibly seventh statewide. The General fund can address this. The primary responsibility of the local government is to provide a safe and secure city. Government can and should offer better construction scheduling for traffic flow.

2. One of the things I love about Las Cruces is its many neighborhoods and the diversity within them. But a city official alone can't build a friendly community – that's not possible. What is possible is for city officials is to learn to listen and promise to give all residents, regardless of what part of town they live in, equal services and attention. And continuing to improve job opportunities to attract families will increase diversity.

3. The problem isn't affordable housing alone – it's a lack of good sustainable jobs. Let's make Las Cruces the shining star it once was and build a city that attracts quality employers. At the same time, improve affordable housing with appropri-

ate housing trusts, the right incentives, tax breaks, rehabilitation of blighted neighborhoods, relaxed development and zoning rules.

4. According to our city recycling department, new markets must be found to make recycling easier for city residents. This may encourage more citizens to participate in recycling. Increased participation will decrease the rate of recycling. The ultimate goal would be to achieve zero-waste-to-landfill when it comes to packaging.



Ken Miyagashima

1. A key City responsibility is to provide the infrastructure that supports residents' daily lives, and we intend to continue building on our successes downtown, in expanding our recreational and sports facilities, and through the largest street maintenance and repair initiative in our city's history. Our goal is to create a steadily improving quality of life, which in turn drives economic development and further investment in ourselves and one another.

2. During my time as mayor we have prioritized making sure every neighborhood in Las Cruces is safe and well-maintained, with ready access to shared resources like

a parks, shopping and recreational areas, good streets and sidewalks, and connection to a wide network of biking and walking trails. Our Community Schools initiative will, in cooperation with LCPS, turn schools into year-round neighborhood centers, with a wide variety of services and activities for residents of all ages.

3. As mayor I have been an active supporter of affordable housing initiatives. In the future I would like to make greater use of the Telshor Fund, a public benefit portfolio created through the leasing of Memorial Medical Center, to make low-interest loans available for affordable housing projects. The loans would make local projects more viable, while providing a reasonable rate of return and valuable diversification for the Telshor Fund itself.

4. While our award-winning recycling program has been popular and cost-effective, it has been challenged recently by the loss of traditional Chinese markets for recyclable materials. In response, our South Central Solid Waste Authority is considering its own processing center for higher priced commodities, and joining other New Mexico communities to develop regional markets for recyclables. I'm confident that the SCSWA will be able to creatively and economically address these challenges over the longer term.



Eugenia (Gina) Ortega

1. Quality of Life and economy are two issues facing our city. We can increase the quality of life by adding parks and recreation to the entire city rather than just main street, fully fund the police department and repair our infrastructure such as our roads. We improve the economy by removing unnecessary and overbearing regulations such as landscaping new property in the winter.

2. Diversity is hard to maintain, because there was a big real-estate boom in the early 2000's. Many from California or other parts of the country made Las Cruces their home, building new subdivisions. We can mitigate this by ensuring Las Cruces has higher paying jobs, more affordable housing, and thoughtful city planning and zoning.

3. To address the affordable housing crisis, we look at loosening zoning restrictions allowing homes in more locations, create sustainable living environments that can help with food and electric cost all while becoming more environmentally friendly. We can also get rid of building codes that don't affect safety allowing for easier repair of buildings.

4. The fact is recycling is only going to be more popular as time goes on. We cannot limit recycling to just some types of plastics. Even when a public education campaign is waged it won't be 100 percent successful in stopping plastic bags or newspapers from entering the recycling bins. We must be better stewards of our earth and not make profit above all else.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

(75 words each)

1. What can the City do to facilitate the development and completion of infrastructure projects?

2. What should be the responsibility of the City to provide broadband connections for all of its citizens? Explain.

3. What more can the City do to encourage environmental conservation and renewable energy? Explain.

4. What are the greatest needs in your District? Explain.



DISTRICT 1 Kasandra A. Gandara

1. Council developed the 2017-2022 strategic plan which addresses development and infrastructure projects. The strategic outcomes that have been achieved are the expansion of the Convention Center, the two-way conversion of Church/Water Streets, the pavement preservation program and the building of a state-of-the-art laboratory for industrial pollution. It is the Council's duty with the public's input to prioritize funding and to hold the city manager accountable to ensure the timely initiation and completion occurs.

2. I feel it is the responsibility of the city to offer reasonably priced utilities to include quality broadband connection to our residents. Access to these services for our children and adults is a must. We have made it a priority to install fiberoptic when our streets are reconstructed city wide. We recently added free WIFI

downtown, and soon to the Mesquite Historic District and the West Mesa Industrial Park.

3. The first step is to expand our Sustainability Office by providing more staff to carry out the policies set forth in our Sustainability Action Plan and Council Resolutions internally to the city. Secondly, it is a priority to educate residents as to the importance of LED retrofits, electric vehicles, planting trees, water conservation, recycling, and solar panels. In addition, encouraging the use of public transportation, bicycling, and walking.

4. District 1 is diverse and encompasses the original town site. The infrastructure is in dire need of replacement and restoration. Many of the households are at poverty level, therefore our children and families need survival and thriving services to enhance quality of life. As chair of the Housing Policy Review Committee, I will continue the work on the development of affordable housing and an ordinance which includes landlord/tenant rights and obligations.



DISTRICT 1 Shelley A. Nichols-Shaw

1. Listen to the residents and business owners needs without making assumptions. Facilitate dialogs between residents, business owners, City, and State in areas where there may be conflict. Hold developers and contractors to accountable deadlines such as penalizing for unmet contracted timelines. Honor their own timelines and deadlines given to the public with citizen lead oversight committees.

2. I've seen our community change from knowing and spending time with our neighbors in

the community, to being disconnect from each other in our own neighborhoods. Having specified broadband provided areas for our city makes sense for residents, business owners, and visitors to the Downtown Mall / Farmer's Market, Convention Center, and Visitor Center. Having too many broadband areas could prove problematic, as we do not want to undermine parental control of supervision for minors.

3. Use environmentally friendly pesticides. Better monitoring of public watering systems. Plant shade/fruit trees next to highly-used walking paths. Provide solar covered bus stops, public benches, and wheelchair charging stations. Repair /install properly built public sidewalks /ramps. Install solar panels at more City buildings and public areas. Provide safe bicycle paths and aisles. Provide incentives for use of conversation systems: drip system irrigation; reduced flow faucets and plumbing fixtures; and/or installing xeriscape yards.

4. Having repeatedly raised public safety, accessibility, and barrier concerns resolved in a more streamlined and timely manner – especially near elementary schools, Poorly maintained roads, sidewalks, light poles, etc. Providing better housing for veterans, families, and individuals with mental health needs and disability concerns. Public safety – neighborhood speeds, properly marked medians, etc. - empowering our police / codes officers. Cleaner water with fewer sediments. Reevaluated flood management. Pesticide free parks and weed control.



DISTRICT 2 Tessa Abeyta Stuve

1. As Las Cruces progresses

it is important that the city is active in guiding future growth, which can be done with the creation and follow through of strategic plans, and incentives to help balance expansion and in-fill. The city has a responsibility to build connecting roads to new areas and make sure projects are completed appropriately. Not all current neighborhoods contain the full elements of livability, including Complete Streets, ADA sidewalks, bike lanes, and parks.

2. The modern era has become more rooted in technology, and almost 30% of New Mexicans feel the negative impact of being without broadband internet. At least 500 U.S. communities have locally owned broadband networks. High speed internet has helped cities attract business, especially those that need massive quantities of digital footage like the film industry. Las Cruces could offer municipally owned, high-speed broadband both to support residents and to entice commerce.

3. One of the great draws to Las Cruces is our open spaces and beautiful Organ Mountains. There are ways to achieve both preservation and appropriate development. One proposed theme for the new Comprehensive Plan is Environment. This theme will allow the City to focus more strategically on green building and infrastructure, alternative energies, water conservation, recycling, solid waste reduction, water quality and conservation, and preservation of wildlife habitat and open spaces.

4. District 2 has both new growth and older developments. Similar to other areas, we experience challenges with road upkeep, water and drainage paths, sewage lines, and other aging infrastructure in need of repair or replacement. In addition, with NMSU sitting in our heart of District 2, we need improved connectivity and interaction with the city that will help encourage students to make Las Cruces their home.



DISTRICT 2
Jack L. Valencia, Jr.

1. Projects of magnitude initially start out with development of a Request for Proposals (RFP), then upon reviewing RFP responses, and ranking them in order to select the appropriate contractor for these projects and time frames. There needs to be elements in the RFP to address the project concerns, there needs to be severe sanctions and penalties when project completion and progress isn't met. The city needs to hold firm in order meet these objectives.

2. Assessment, The first analysis needs to be project costs, reduction of user costs or eventual elimination of recurring costs. Moving to a municipally owned broadband system is an investment. Residents can already get fast internet from providers. The City receives revenue from franchise agreements. The City also has fiber optic lines connecting municipal buildings. This project needs to be brought to voters in a bond issue to gain approval to pay for these services.

3. We need to be mindful in our daily choices and consumption. Conserve by using less energy and embracing alternative energy sources, Solar is a no brainer, Wind has regional possibilities,

along with batteries. Promote Water Conservation, Roadrunner Transit, Expand the Recycling effort, Eliminate Household Hazardous Waste usage, Avoid using paper and plastic when possible, then donate material items our grappler trucks disposes of today All of these would help reduce our carbon footprint.

4. The basics: Street Repair, Better Street lighting in neighborhoods, especially University Ave. for pedestrian safety. Improve relations with NMSU Additionally, construction or designating more bike/walking paths. Seek parking alternatives near NMSU. Create a help desk at NMSU's Corbett Center for City services. Create more recreational opportunities and parks for youth. Citizens want quick response to basic services: Police, Fire, Utilities. Citizens want phone calls returned! Citizens want respect and efficiency! Stay Focused, no distractions!



DISTRICT 2
Philip VanVeen

1. One issue that concerns me is that the city approves the lowest bidder for a job without considering other factors like experience or access to proper equipment. We've had bids won by companies who then have to rent and learn to use equipment

before they can do the job. Between smart phase planning with timelines and qualified workers, we can easily improve on today's track record

2. Helping to insure that broadband connections are available to all citizens is good, because we lag behind much of the country in this area. Providing internet service itself, however, should be placed in the hands of private industry, with the city government making it easier for those businesses to come in and operate, instead of becoming another expense placed on the shoulders of the taxpayers.

3. As a government entity, the city should encourage its citizens on ways to be responsible but to mandate or overregulate private property rights and commerce is not the answer. With the trend in America toward electric cars, it's important to remember that our community still derives its electricity from fossil fuels. I'm all for conservation but it's my responsibility as a citizen to act; not my government's responsibility to force me to.

4. Overall, District 2 appears to be in better shape than most districts but, while talking to residents, concerns are being brought up that are not being addressed. I will work to bring better communication between the people I represent and our city. Always remember that your councilors are elected to represent you. They are not your government, but are, instead, your advocates to that government.



DISTRICT 2
Jason D. Estrada

1. The City should be hands-on in every step of expediting projects around Las Cruces in order to facilitate properly. Even if that means hiring an outside independent consultant to ensure that the City is not needlessly spending taxpayer's money. The City should hold the companies accountable that are awarded the contracts for infrastructure projects. This could be done by issuing fines to companies that fall behind on projects and compensating businesses affected by the delay.

2. The City already provides Internet options through the public library and there are many options for citizens to go to local establishments that provide free wi-fi. Many of our local schools are considered low-income areas and can take advantage of low-priced internet through Xfinity also. With these many options of low cost to free internet use, the City should not be responsible for providing amenities that are not a necessity to the community.

3. The City needs to continue to educate the community in environmental conservation and renewable energy options. For the community to fully participate in conserving the environment, it should be at the forefront of people's

minds to reduce, recycle, and reuse. This could be done with local advertisements and frequent local activities for the community to participate in.

4. The greatest need in my District and city-wide is providing more opportunities for our youth. We need to be an appealing option for our college graduates to stay in our community, rather than other cities and states. We also need to give children more opportunities to participate in outside activities to boost a healthy living environment for our community. My proposal is to do these opportunities by providing scholarships to children in my district.



DISTRICT 4
Johana Bencomo

1. The City must improve its communication with residents and businesses impacted by upcoming construction. For projects not yet planned, I will ensure the City brings a wider range of voices into the decision-making process. We must also have a more comprehensive vetting process for contractors to ensure timely, high-quality work that respects and honors the trust taxpayers place in civil servants to be good stewards of their public dollars.

2. Our schools, busi-

nesses, healthcare, and way of life depend on reliable Internet access. Providing equitable Internet access for residents should be a county-wide effort and priority. I support the City's goal of categorizing Internet access as a public utility and for providing free wi-fi for Downtown, but more can be done. We are living in a digital era where an inequitable digital divide exists, closing this ensures all our residents share equal opportunity to thrive.

3. Las Cruces has the potential to be a model in the Southwest to address climate change. The City must move towards having solar power on all city buildings and structures. Working with the state and county, the city should also make it a priority to ensure low-to-moderate income families can access solar energy. We must invest in a cleaner public transportation system and promote walkability and cycling by fully committing to the Complete Streets model.

4. Having canvassed every precinct in District 4 and hearing a wide range of residents' concerns, the most frequent concern I hear is improving public safety. Residents want the City to invest in infrastructure that makes their neighborhoods safer and more beautiful. That means complete streets that are pedestrian friendly, ADA compliant, and reflect the beauty of our city. Las Cruces want better lighting, adequate traffic enforcement, more community policing and fully funded codes enforcement.



DISTRICT 4 Robert J. Palacios

1. It is important for the City to invest in and support the development and completion of infrastructure projects. As our City grows, we have a need for better roads and better facilities to continue to provide much needed services to our community. We must ensure that these processes are done in a timely manner and have a minimal impact on businesses and surrounding communities. Public input is of utmost importance on these projects.

2. I believe it is important for the City to provide resources to our community. Living in the information age, it is important to have access to Internet. We have resources across our community, public and private, to access Wi-Fi and broadband. On September 12 the City launched Wi-Fi access downtown and we must continue to identify ways to expand access in a fiscally responsible way.

3. We must continue to educate households on the available resources such as the blue recyclable containers as well as promote and provide incentives for solar energy. As a candidate I am working for the next generation and that means a cleaner,

healthier, more educated community for our future.

4. The greatest concern in district 4 is traffic and construction. Valley Drive has done a number on local business and made commuting through district 4 cumbersome. We also have an issue of motorists speeding through residential areas as well as a need for sidewalks and the reconstructions of old roads in the district. I am working closely with the residents of district 4 to find solutions. Please contact me with concerns at elect@rob4LC.com or www.rob4LC.com



DISTRICT 4 Antoinette M. Reyes

1. I believe that road construction needs to be better planned such as not having major roads under construction at the same time as one another, not blocking off areas weeks before construction begins, and getting permission from neighbors to waive some noise ordinances for major projects to shorten construction times. Projects should be transparent, responsible, and an effective use of public funds. I also support more partnerships with schools, community organizations, and intergovernmental agencies.

2. I believe that investing in fiber optic cables and equipping City properties, such as parks and recreation centers, with public Wi-Fi access is the first major step in addressing intergenerational poverty. Many high school and college students currently go to fast-food restaurants or ride buses all day simply to be able to finish their classwork. Internet skills are almost essential for the learning and working environments of younger generations.

3. The City should engage in an energy service contract that upgrades the energy and water efficiency of all City buildings to include xeriscaping and restarting the City's use of edible plants in public spaces. I am committed to sustainability to include improving the city's waste management and recycling approaches. As a former city employee, I helped garner a \$10 million bond that was partially used for green retrofits and solar installations.

4. My priority is making sure Las Cruces is a safe community with opportunities. District 4 is diverse and lacks transit connectivity. Many streets haven't been resurfaced in 30 to 50 years. I support buying local and helping small businesses. The city needs to do more to attract medical professionals. I support first responders, advocate for community policing, and want to reform our court system through the creation of a specialty court administration focusing on rehabilitation.

SCHOOL BOARD

LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Las Cruces Public Schools has 40 schools: 24 elementary schools (pre-kindergarten-5th); 1 combined elementary and middle school (K-8th); 8 middle schools (6th-8th); and 7 high schools. Two of the seven high schools are early college high schools and are located on the campus of New Mexico State University.

The Board of Education regular meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and work sessions are on the 1st Tuesday. School Board meetings are televised live and then rebroadcast on CLC-TV channel 20 on the following Saturday at 7:00 a.m.

The Board hires a Superintendent to implement and enforce policies. Board members are elected to nonpartisan, 4-year staggered terms. School Board members serve without pay.

Website: www.lcps.net

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD

(75 words each)

1. What can School Board members do to address the problem of instability in the administrative leadership of the Las Cruces Public Schools?

2. Should there be more vocational/technical education opportunities in our school system? Explain.

3. What is your position on early childhood education? Should it be required? Explain.

4. What more can the LCPS do to support the learning of children in poverty?



DISTRICT 4 Jeffrey R. Silva

1. I would create collaboration between Parents, Teachers and Administration. I would create a weekly

Podcast or YouTube channel to give updates. I would listen to people's concerns so that each one is addressed. I would set up a time monthly to have coffee with the Parents and Teachers to talk through concerns. I am willing to make my cell phone available and will return all calls 24-48 hours.

2. Yes I believe that some kids may not want to enter college and

prefer to learn a trade, therefore we would need to set up classes such as wood shop, automotive, home economics including computer science and similar classes. I would like to see a greater mentorship or internship between the business community and the school system at all ages. Starting the mentorship earlier may be beneficial for career building.

3. I believe this would be beneficial as many Families are two income households therefore the child is in the care of a family member or daycare. I believe a more structure environment with a preschool elementary teacher and a structure curriculum would benefit these Children in a classroom setting. Young Children with a learning disability may be identified early and social skills may develop in order to learn to respect each other and other cultures.

4. I would create a "take a book home" program with a point system for reading and comprehending with a reward system to purchase from a catalog with items from a grant or foundation. The school should enforce polices to prevent shaming and or bullying at all ages. I would create a counseling center for not only students but parents while creating programs to help these kids with medical and career development.



DISTRICT 4
Teresa Maxine Tenorio

1. As a joint body, the Las Cruces School Board has one employee: the superintendent. In hindsight of going through two superintendents and on our second interim superintendent in four years, the board should reflect upon its hiring process and collaborative management style to ensure that the next superintendent will be a wise choice who we can support towards a successful, stable, and long tenure.

2. Yes! Senator Bill Soules explained on a recent panel, and I paraphrase: "Our emphasis in education needs to change from 'College and Career' to 'Career and College'; college for those whose vocation requires it." Offering more vocational/technical education will expand inclusion of students; broaden the scope and equity of opportunity for graduates; and grow a workforce in demand by local businesses and the community with reciprocal benefits to our economy: more salary, less debt.

3. All 3 of my children attended preschool when they turned 4 years old. I loved the different preschool programs they attended. Affordable and quality choices are important and Las Cruces needs more of both. We have too many families

on waiting lists, denied service, or who can't afford what is available. Every young learner should be able to participate in evidence-based ECE programs that expose them to language, play, and socialization for their development.

4. We are responsible for meeting the requirements of the Martinez-Yazzie decision. Our district is the 2nd largest in the state and the majority of our students qualify for Title 1, so it's fair to say we serve most students from a lower socioeconomic status. We must focus on ensuring more funding, resources, and support services are going directly into our classrooms and schools to our underserved students.



DISTRICT 4
Janice Marie Williams

1. Dysfunction amongst leadership has a negative impact not only on students, but on the community, as well as our teachers. The board must rebuild trust and confidence in leadership. Be open, honest and responsive to the needs of the community. Leverage input from the community, teachers and students to develop a clear vision for improvement and set the stage to follow through. Provide support for a productive teaching and learning environment.

2. Absolutely. Outside-of-school situated learning can help students to understand the correlation of school subject relevance to a working environment. Interest based learning experiences, especially with community organizations and businesses, can benefit students in establishing relationships with mentors and gaining exposure to possible career paths. It offers students choices and opportunity to make informed decisions when considering what jobs could best suit their interests and skills.

3. ECE is most beneficial to "at-risk" students and especially important for those with special needs. A quality preschool program should be available for every child regardless of income or disability. And we need quality preschool programs that are focused on specific disabilities. Every parent has a responsibility to educate their children. But it is a parent's decision to choose whether they feel their child would benefit from ECE.

4. First, a school board needs to ensure we have a high-quality education program that helps all students and sets an expectation of achievement. Second, address the physiological needs of the student to promote learning, but also look at establishing a support system for the entire family. By building trusting parent/teacher relationships we can engage parents in the home. By developing community relationships, we can engage their expertise and assistance.



DISTRICT 4
William J. Zarges

1. The School Board needs to evaluate its policies regarding administration. It should also "stay in its lane" and let administrators do their job. This is not to say that there shouldn't be 1) a review of the number of administrators and 2) directing the Superintendent to ensure administrators are fulfilling their purpose in supporting the students and teachers of the District.

2. Yes. For instance, Centennial High has only THREE faculty members in Voc-Tech. I could not find a Voc-Tech program at all on the Las Cruces H S site. Both Onate and Mayfield seem to have decent programs in this area but I'm sure there's room for improvement and expansion. Not every high school graduate is college material and expanding Voc-Tech should give those students a better start to their adult success.

3. Explain. I am in favor of early childhood education. Most LCPS programs seem to accept 4 year olds in Head Start and Developmentally Disabled programs. My preference would be to extend the Head Start programs to 3 year olds and increase availability of early learning opportunities beyond the current emphasis on De-

velopmentally Disabled students.

4. LCPS should expand programs beyond Developmentally Disabled students to the entire student population. Present policies should be expanded to ensure no child falls through the cracks and gets the support they need to be successful in their student career.



DISTRICT 4
Jesus Joaquin Favela, Jr.

1. There may be several issues which is causing instability in the administrative leadership. One such issue may be some board members may be overstepping their responsibilities as board members and undermining the superintendent. Of course these are allegations but if true then board members will need to be reminded of their responsibilities as outlined. If a board member continues to undermine administrative staff they need to be held accountable, this is applicable to all members.

2. I know for a fact that there are electives that are geared towards vocational and technical studies. Thus stating that we need more is a moot point. It is up to the students to elect to take them. A school board cannot force students to enroll in

classes. School boards can only give students the opportunity to enroll and make use of all the resources available.

3. I believe early childhood education should be required but in my opinion it already is. The public schools offer this program to all kids who meet the age requirement. I believe schools can only do so much to advocate for students, the rest is the responsibility of the parents. I would encourage parents to take advantage of every opportunity available as it is extremely beneficial to children.

4. LCPS does a lot to help children in poverty they provide school supplies, food, clothes and support services for children. If one thing could be focused on is the need for full time support staff (Social Workers, Diagnosticians and Speech Language Pathologists).

To fully address this issue children's parents need to be part of the solution. LCPS can offer parenting, financial and job workshops to parents to help them improve their social economic standing.





DISTRICT 4
Margaret A. Mendoza

1. It is time our community knows more about LCPS administration and its finances. Are tasks outlined in job descriptions still relevant? Are employees fulfilling those responsibilities? Are salaries fair? Is the total cost of administrative personnel reasonable compared to the amount spent in the classroom? An inquiry into the reasons former superintendents left their position would be helpful. Finally, we need a more comprehensive vetting process for new hires

2. College prep and career prep should be open to all and offered early. "Trades", like plumbing, or aircraft maintenance, and windmill maintenance are high paying professions that require more than high school but less than a 4-year degree. Students should know what steps to take early and they need mentors to provide advice and firsthand experience All students - boys, girls, college bound or not - should be provided with these opportunities.

3. Research proves that kids from 0 to 5 are voracious learners but not all little learners have access to the same learning resources. As a result, too many 5-year-olds enter kindergarten with a learning gap.

Knowledge grows on a base of prior knowledge. If that base is missing it must be built first. The learning gap may take many years to close. I support universal access to PreK.

4. Establish and support more community schools. Hunger is not the only barrier to learning. So is homelessness or stressed parents or a physically challenged sibling. Community schools are planned and designed by students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members ensuring that each school addresses the unique needs of their neighborhood. In addition to providing instruction, staying open later provides more opportunity for adult education, neighborhood gatherings, workshops, and extended learning opportunities.



DISTRICT 5
Carol Lynn Cooper

1. Channels of communication should be designed and adopted by the School Board (on behalf of the citizens), Superintendent and Administration, and teacher and support school staff. Unilateral decision-making ignores insight that can be gleaned from people at various levels, inspires fear that weakens productivity, and often

covers indiscretions, possibly crime, that squanders educational resources.

2. I absolutely support having more vocational/technical training opportunities in our local schools. The God-given talents of students are many and varied. In our state and nation, work abounds, work which gives fulfillment, provides more than sustenance, and requires that talents be developed. Vocational/technical training available in the high school setting could also have the effect of replacing fear of failure with confidence found in visible successes-helpful for teenage students.

3. I do not believe early childhood education should be the role of public education. Parents are "first teachers", and children derive their identity from their parents. I do believe intervention is necessary, but with parents before a child is born. Therefore, 1) Enhance Life Skill programs to include childcare 2) Publish (and include in Life Skills Program) "Suggested school-ready skills" 3) Provide periodic evaluation opportunities for children prior to Kindergarten.

4. I am inclined to think children in poverty in Las Cruces are well provided for with gifts of food and clothing and extra books and toys to stimulate reading and thinking. The parents' education is likely to be the cause of the poverty. Perhaps LCPS could work with social service agencies to provide maybe even a "first chance" for adults in poverty to learn to read, write, and cipher.



DISTRICT 5
Edward Frank

1. I agree that stability of leadership is essential toward moving LCPS forward. However, I don't believe LCPS has had an abnormal amount of instability. At this time, I'm confident that we have highly effective leaders in our Central Office and in our schools. It my hope that we will keep this cohesive unit intact for the next few years. Plus, I believe under Dr. Karen Trujillo's leadership, LCPS will improve student outcomes.

2. Absolutely. LCPS has explored working with the Las Cruces Home Builders Association and DACC to teach building trade skills to interested students. We need to get that program up and running. We need to expand the Automotive Program at MHS by making it available to all high school students in the district. Good Vocational/Technical programs will enable graduates to enter the job market with skills that are in demand.

3. I don't think early childhood education should be required but it should be available and affordable for those who want and need it. Not all children live in homes that nurture their natural academic ability. Those children, in particular, will benefit from quality early childhood

education. Early childhood education is also essential for English language learners. Children who enter our schools not speaking English are entering with a deficit.

4. Every student living in poverty should have the availability of an after school program. Community Schools provide a solid model for addressing the needs of students in poverty. Students without proper clothing, food, and healthcare are not likely to be successful academically. It's essential to remediate deficiencies in reading and math as soon as they're revealed. We need to continue to teach English to the parents of students whose native language is not English.



DISTRICT 5
Gloria J. Martinez

1. They should hire the best candidate for Superintendent. This person should have experience working with; school employees, community, business, government agencies and have the vision and leadership skills necessary to lead the District. Candidates should be vetted through a comprehensive process, with input from employees, students, parents, businesses and community. Two Board members should visit the candidate's previous place of employment to interview stakeholders to ensure the candidate is the best

fit for our district.

2. Yes, I believe vocational/technical education is important because it prepares students that choose this path to have a productive career. Because districts have been deleting these programs from their curriculum there is a serious shortage of skilled workers. We need these workers for our economy to be self-sustaining and independent. Where would we be if we did not have medical or IT technicians or the workforce required to build buildings, bridges, roads, schools, etc.

3. Yes, we should have early childhood education. We should emphasize and encourage parents to enroll their children in this program. Early intervention, such as the k-5 program, gives children advantages and opportunities in preparing them for success. From personal experience I believe my son was more successful in the school system because he attended a certified preschool. Overall this will help prepare our children for this highly competitive and technological world we live in today.

4. We need more Community Schools. Children who are hungry, homeless and do not have adequate medical care or clothing, cannot concentrate on their school work. Community schools help fill these needs. The District currently has four community schools, with two more schools to be opened soon; Alameda and Hermosa. It is encouraging that there is now a venue to assist these students with their needs so that they can better focus on their studies.



DISTRICT 5 Maria G. Pacheco

1. In looking for a new Superintendent we need to look at the entire

candidate, not just the letters behind the name. Education designations certainly have merit, but should be just one component of the criteria used for evaluation of the “whole” candidate. I believe if the candidate has been part of our community or a district similar to ours, they may have more of a vested interest in the success of our students and staff.

2. Absolutely! Classes should be open to students starting with all middle schools. Classes also need to be made available at every high school and not just certain classes at selected schools. Every student, no matter where they attend high school should have the opportunity to take agriculture or automotive classes (for example purposes). By doing

this we give every student the choice to find their own path, which may not include college.

3. Early childhood education is essential to success of our students. I believe it should be required so that we are able to get our students to certain benchmarks by the time they start kindergarten. Many of our students start school below where they should

be and in some cases are never able to catch back up. It is imperative to start early and give every student the opportunity for success.

4. The best thing LCPS can do is to understand that the district alone is not solely responsible for this. We are absolutely responsible for educating these students in school, but teaching our children to become productive and

responsible citizens is a community obligation as well. Collaboration is crucial to success when it comes to supporting children in poverty. Making these connections will help our entire community become vested in the success of all our children.

PRESIDING MUNICIPAL JUDGE

LAS CRUCES MUNICIPAL COURT

The Municipal Court handles all violations in the City of Las Cruces Municipal Code.

Those violations are considered petty misdemeanor cases, including traffic citations, all of which can carry a fine of up to \$500 and/or a jail term up to 90 days. (DWI cases carry a higher penalty.)

The Judges are elected to four-year, staggered terms on a nonpartisan basis.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDING JUDGE

(75 words each)

1. What specific skills and expertise will you bring to the position of Presiding Municipal Judge?
2. Give two examples of issues for the Municipal Court and explain how you would address them.
3. What ideas do you have to improve the Municipal Court system?



Joy Goldbaum

1. I've worked in the Municipal Court for the past four years—two years representing indigent defendants on misdemeanors, and for the past two years as a Municipal Judge. I've spent most of my 28 years as a lawyer/judge working with self-represented litigants, and I've been trained in best practices for DWI/

Drug Court. I favor creating a DWI/Drug Court in Municipal Court.

2. The current Court administration allows defendants to perform community service at only three places, so defendants rarely select community service in lieu of fines. Additionally, defendants are required to make a minimum monthly payment on fines of \$25. Because of the poverty among a large number of defendants, I will offer many more options for community service, and a more flexible payment schedule where warranted.

3. Due to the high number of homeless and/or

drug/alcohol addicted defendants, I will implement a Homeless Court Program and DWI/Drug Court to address the underlying issues which cause some non-violent defendants to circulate frequently through the Municipal Court. Evidence shows us that treating addictions and housing homeless defendants instead of incarcerating these non-violent defendants saves the taxpayers money, and is more effective in reducing crime than short-term incarceration.

Richard M. Jacquez

No contact information available

NEW MEXICO ELECTION REFORMS

The New Mexico Elections Act passed in 2018 instituted broad election reforms including moving all local elections to the first Tuesday in November in odd-numbered years. This includes municipal, school board, water district, and soil conservation district

elections which used to be scattered throughout the year. The Act also provided municipalities the choice to institute ranked choice voting or not. These reforms were designed to promote more voting and save money by consolidation of elections and eliminat-

ing the need for runoff elections. Bond issue and tax levy elections (apart from regular November elections) will all be mail-in elections.

Ranked choice voting (RCV) makes democracy more fair and functional. It works in a variety of contexts and is a simple

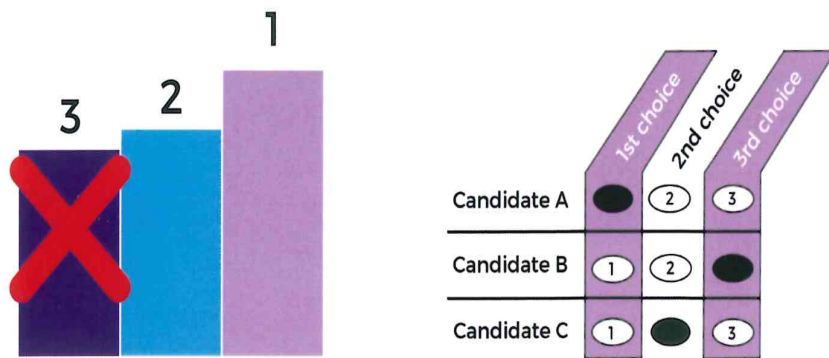
change that can have a big impact. With ranked choice voting, voters can rank as many candidates as they want in order of choice. Voters do not have to do this. They may still vote for only one candidate. With RCV, you get winners who earn a majority of

the vote. This means you don't need to vote twice since there is no primary or runoff election. This saves money and reduces campaign finance costs. For more information see www.las-cruces.org/1942/Ranked-Choice-Voting (The videos are both helpful.)

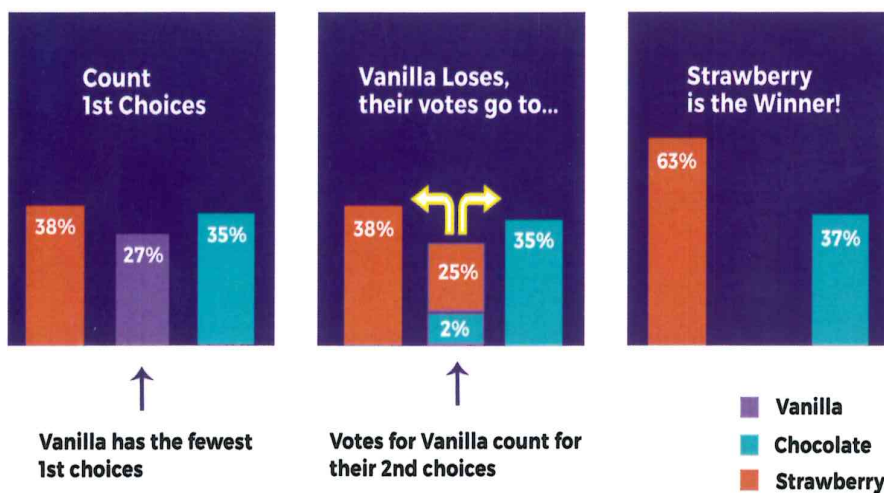
Ranked Choice Voting in Las Cruces

How does ranked choice voting work?

With ranked choice voting, voters get to rank the candidates from most to least favorite. When the votes are counted, if no candidate reaches the winning threshold, the candidate with the least votes is eliminated.



Voters who chose that candidate as their favorite now instantly have their second choice counted as their vote. This is why Ranked Choice Voting is also known as Instant Runoff Voting. This process continues until one candidate crosses the winning threshold.



Las Cruces has decided to use RCV. We are joining a growing number of cities who are already using this democracy-building voting system, including Oakland, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and most recently Santa Fe!



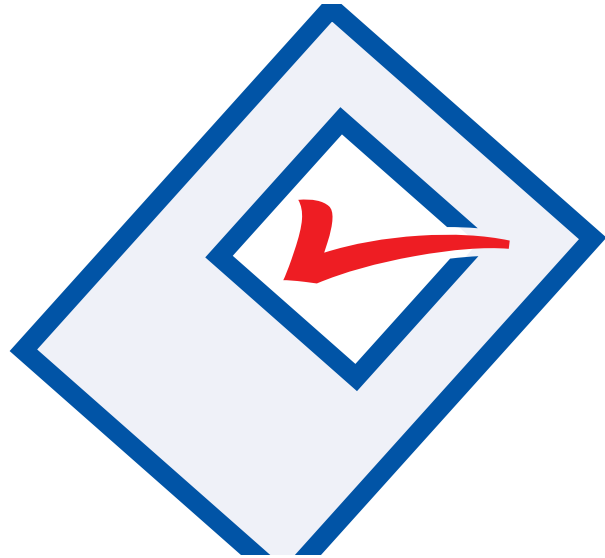
Positive effects of RCV

- 1. Gives more power to voters** - even if your favorite candidate can't get enough popular support to win, you still get a say on who gets elected
- 2. Eliminates vote splitting** - you don't have to choose between the "lesser of two evils" again for fear of helping your least favorite candidate get elected. You can truly vote your conscience!
- 3. Promotes positive campaigning** - Candidates need to appeal to a broad base of support in order to get voters 2nd and 3rd choice votes. Voters are unlikely to support a candidate that personally attacks their favorite candidate
- 4. Reduces election costs** - RCV gets rid of a top-two, separate runoff election- instead having the runoff happen instantaneously in one higher turnout election
- 5. Promotes voter confidence in their ballot** - As a voter you know that your ballot truly reflects your preference, and that your vote won't be wasted if your favorite can't win

FairVote
NEW MEXICO

For more information, go to www.fairvotem.org or email Ashley Beyer at abeyer@fairvote.org





The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico

LWVSNM Voter Services: Voter Services Co-Chairs Vicki Simons and Dale Yeo; Co-Presidents Kathy Brook and Eileen Van Wie; Voters Guide Editor Dale Yeo

Additional resource for voters
NM Secretary of State voter portal:
www.NMVOTE.org

The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico wishes to thank all of those who made this Voters Guide possible by contributing to the Education Fund. Contributions to the League's Education Fund are appreciated. LWVSNM is a 501c3 organization and can be reached at (575) 524-VOTE (8683) or lwvsnm.org.

Special thanks to the Las Cruces Bulletin, Richard Coltharp (Publisher), Alexia Severson (Special Sections Editor) and the staff of the Las Cruces Bulletin.

OTHER BALLOT ITEMS

Las Cruces Public Schools

On the November 5, 2019 ballot, voters will decide whether to renew an existing tax to support the Las Cruces Public Schools.

If approved, the three-mill levy (known as HB33) will generate approximately \$10 million each year to fund critical health and safety projects in school buildings; purchase new school furnishings and music equipment; as well as, fund technology upgrades to support greater opportunities for STEM learning in the classroom.

Every school, and therefore all students, will benefit from this mill levy.

Approval of the three-mill levy election will not increase the current school tax rate.

If approved, the mill levy will assess local property taxes in the amount of \$3.00 for every \$1,000 of net taxable value of a person's property for the next six years. Taxable value is one-third of the assessed value of a person's property.

For more information about LCPS, visit www.lcps.net.

Doña Ana Community College

Doña Ana Community College (DACC) President Dr. Mónica Torres announced a DACC General Obligation Bond will be part of the Doña Ana County election ballot on November 5, 2019. The DACC Bond will provide funding to refurbish infrastructure, as well as modernize and construct state-of-the-art facilities and laboratories at the Community College. Passage of the bond will not increase taxes for Doña Ana County residents.

"Funds raised as a result of this election allow us to continue providing quality academic programs and services for citizens in Doña Ana County and include a wide



range of options: adult education, workforce preparation and development and general education," Torres said.

DACC has a General Obligation Bond election every four years. This bond will provide funding for projects from 2019 to 2022.

For more information see: dacc.nmsu.edu/in-the-media/2019/08/29/go-bond-to-benefit-students-and-community.

Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District

Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District (DASWCD) is authorized to conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Doña Ana County. DASWCD is a governmental subdivision of the

State of New Mexico.

In the Spring of 2015, the District was divided into zones in order to better serve the constituents of geographical areas.

DASWCD consists of a total of seven supervisors. The supervisors are residents and/or landowners of the District or appropriate zone. DASWCD works in partnership with NMDA, other state and federal agencies, and various organizations to advance conservation on private and public lands.

Three of the seven supervisors are up for election and will be on the November 5, 2019 ballot. The candidates in Districts 1, 2 and 5 are District 1: Jerry Guy Schickdanz, Kurt SJ Anderson. District 2: Fernando Clemente, David Joseph Martinez. District 5: Joshua L. Smith, Christopher Kost Podruchny Cardenas.

For more information see: www.daswcd.org.