



2017 VOTERS GUIDE

LAS CRUCES MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

A municipal election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. This municipal election will fill positions for City Council Districts 3, 5 and 6, and Municipal Judge II, 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 have already registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this election. If you live in Districts 3, 5, or 6, you are eligible to vote for a city council candidate from your district. All eligible voters can vote for the Municipal Judge.

If you have a question concerning the election, please contact the Las Cruces City Clerk's Office at (575) 541-2115 or the online website: <http://www.las-cruces.org>. The **Voters Guide** is also available online at the League's website 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 you will be ineligible to vote in this election. The registration books for registering to vote at the regular municipal election were closed by the County Clerk at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, **October 10, 2017**.

VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting on paper ballots began on October 11, 2017. Absentee voting by machine began on October 18, 2017. All absentee voting ends on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Absentee voting Monday through Friday will be between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Saturday absentee voting dates are October 21, October 28 and November 4 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Office of the City Clerk, 700 N. Main St.

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 3**, 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 4**. 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 7. A voter or a member of that voter's immediate family may deliver that voter's absentee ballot in person to the City Clerk's Office, provided that the voter signed the outer envelope of the absentee ballot.

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 Tuesday, November 7, the Voting Convenience Centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ANY QUALIFIED VOTER MAY VOTE IN ANY ONE OF THE VOTING CONVENIENCE CENTERS IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES FOR THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION AS FOLLOWS:

1. Branigan Library- 200 E. Picacho Ave.
2. Doña Ana County Government Center- 845 N. Motel Blvd.
3. Sage Cafe- 6121 Reynolds Dr.
4. Frank O'Brien Papen Center (Formerly Mesilla Park Recreation Center)- 304 W. Bell Ave.
5. Good Samaritan- 3011 Buena Vida Cir.
6. Henry Benavidez Center- 1045 McClure St.
7. Meerscheidt Recreation Center- 1600 E. Hadley Ave.
8. Doña Ana Community College (East Mesa Branch)- 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
9. Munson Senior Center- 975 S. Mesquite St.
10. Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico- 4441 E. Lohman
11. Lynn Middle School- 950 S. Walnut
12. Highland Elementary- 4201 Emerald St.
13. Jornada Elementary- 3400 Elks
14. Desert Hills Elementary- 280 Roadrunner Pkwy.

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



The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces (LWVGLC) 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.

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.

DISCLAIMERS: Material in the voting information section was correct as of 10.17.17. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Las Cruces City Clerk or the Dona Ana Bureau of Elections between that and the date of the election.

District 3

Questions for the Candidates for City Council (Limit of 75 words each)

1. Describe your two top priorities for the City.
2. What options do you see for furthering economic development?
3. What are your plans for expanding public facilities?
4. Recent studies indicated a need for over 4,949 rental and 4,109 home ownership units. How will you address these needs?

Courtney, Beverly



1. Reduce red tape and free flowing traffic. Red tape can silence your voice. I want to bring freedom to speak for everyone, everywhere. The permitting process. A recent article by Debbi Moore, Pres., LC Chamber of Commerce, said we need a one stop shop. I agree, lets make it quick and efficient. We paid for green light synchronization - wasn't successful. One construction project should be finished before starting another. A bypass is essential.

2. Regulations drive businesses out. Look at the Cardiac Hospital wanting to locate in the old Country Club; four years in process and still not completed. Looks like manipulation through regulation.

Opportunities exist. Walmart is looking to bring manufacturing plants back to the US. Why not here? Federal law is requiring truckers to stop driving after 11 hours. That's within our borders. West Mesa is perfect. MVEDA, LC Chamber and others consider workforce development a must.

3. Priorities. Basic services such as a fire stations, road expansions and improvements are first. This also will alleviate traffic and dangerous bottlenecks. Where are the impact fees being spent?

Policies already put in place for infill should be implemented. That will restore and renew District 3 and provide jobs through incentives. Cottage industries, mom and pop stores encouraged. All ideas welcome.

4. There are over 10,000 platted lots in existence in Las Cruces. The market will decide where the future units will be. Infrastructure to meet transportation and safety needs has to be prioritized and acted upon. Stop with the city impeding and competing with business. Astronomical unemployment will go through partnership.

Vasquez, Gabriel



1. My top two priorities are neighborhood revitalization and job creation. Many older and historic neighborhoods in District 3 are in great need of infrastructure improvements, signage and branding, and infill redevelopment. Likewise, our community needs more opportunities for workers to succeed. We don't just need more jobs, but better jobs. To help build wealth for local families, we should prioritize local small businesses and give graduating students a chance to succeed here.

2. The city should prioritize workers, locally-owned small businesses, should build on the creative economy, and embrace a regional approach to economic development. Workers and small businesses should not be pitted against each other, both can succeed, and both can prosper. The city should leverage its culture, history, artists, and entrepreneurs to integrate the creative economy into existing neighborhoods. The city should also capitalize on smart opportunities related to the border economy and clean energy development.

3. Individuals and families need welcoming and well-maintained and safe places to exercise and play, regardless of where they live. I support the expansion of the Hadley recreation complex in District 3 to include more diverse activities for everyone. I believe our city is badly in need of infrastructure redevelopment in its older and historic districts, particularly by adding bus stop shelters, green spaces, walkable sidewalks, and facilitating the creation of cultural corridors and public art.

4. Local contractors and businesses should always be prioritized when the city conducts studies, builds or expands local facilities, or solicits any type of service paid for with taxpayer money. If the housing market can support the addition of new homes and rentals, the city should focus on finding a policy solution that encourages the construction of affordable apartments and homes, priced within a fair range to the average consumer. The city should prioritize infill opportunities.

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