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Q1

Candidate Name:

Brook Bassan

Q2

District #:

4

Q3

How long have you lived in the District you're running for?

10 years

Q4

Email address

BrookForDistrict4@gmail.com

Q5

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

505-238-2418

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website

<https://brookbassan.com>

Social Media

Brook4District4

Q7

If elected, what would be your first priority as a City Councilor?

Reducing crime in Albuquerque is paramount. I fully support our law enforcement and first responders. Coming in full compliance with the DOJ requirements and ending the consent decree in our city will help, but know I will keep pushing for our existing laws to be enforced, criminals are arrested for their crimes, and victims are not blamed for becoming victims. I will continue urging the Legislature and Courts to end catch and release, return pre-trial detention, strengthen three strikes laws, continue warrant roundups, and I will revisit the details of being an immigrant-friendly city. Crime has become seemingly permitted in Albuquerque, and this is unacceptable. We must return to a culture where breaking the law is always intolerable.

Q8

What can you as a City Councilor do to determine the usefulness of ordinances and regulations in serving citizens without unnecessarily overburdening anyone?

I am proud to work with constituents, businesses, and with city departments to determine the struggles, or unintended consequences of some of our current ordinances. During my term as the current District 4 City Councilor, I have sponsored many ordinance updates, some of which were the Civilian Police Oversight Agency, the Inspector General, and Accountability in Government Oversight ordinances. These updates have helped improve operations of the city and eliminated some unnecessary burden on the public. Many ordinances are extremely out of date and our city has changed dramatically. The Merit Ordinance is one that is quite outdated, and is just one ordinance I plan to evaluate, amend, and improve if re-elected.

Q9

What would you do to streamline permitting and other government red tape in order to attract new business to the city?

Obtaining a building permit from the city should take no more than a week (or even less), instead of taking months as it does now. Hiring additional city planners, inspectors and engineers is something I have supported and will continue to support. Ensuring the city pays competitive wages for these, and other positions, is also necessary to ensure more recruitment and retention of employees. I will work closely with the Planning Department to evaluate what changes need to occur to improve the permitting process in the city. We desperately need development of businesses and housing. We should allow certified contractors actively participate in the permitting process, including signing affidavits or virtual inspections of some projects. It is unacceptable, and incredibly costly for developers to have to wait so long to just begin their project.

Q10

Albuquerque holds top national rankings for homicide and other serious crimes. How would you use the position of City Councilor to make the citizens of Albuquerque safer?

The City Council has to ensure the Administration requires, and allows, the Albuquerque Police Department to enforce all laws in Albuquerque. The Police Chief must support all officers and prioritize placing more officers on the streets at the than in the upper echelons of management.

The Council must also work with City Legal to find ways that fight back on certain law suits that come against the city so that the victims are protected, while the law breakers are fined, arrested and prosecuted.

Instead of pointing fingers at another entity, we must continue to offer solutions and collaborate with Bernalillo County, the District Attorney's Office, our State Legislature and Governor.

It's not always about doing something new. The City Council needs to stop creating new laws just to "do something." Our city already has plenty of laws that need to be enforced. Once we get back to basics and focus on protecting citizens, and businesses, we can begin looking into new ways to further improve a once again thriving city.

Q11

What would you do as a City Councilor to keep current businesses from closing/leaving while attracting more businesses to Albuquerque?

Businesses are closing/leaving, or not coming to Albuquerque, because it's not safe. We have to ensure employees, patrons, storefronts, merchandise and all other aspects of a business are protected, clean and safe. It is absurd that people go to a store and are paying for their purchase, while criminals are simultaneously walking out with shopping carts of stolen merchandise. The government has a basic obligation to provide public safety to its community. Individuals should have the right to choose to obtain private security, but not have it suggested directly from the city's police department.

In addition to creating a safe and clean city for businesses to thrive, the Planning Department needs more support to ensure permits are processed in a much timelier manner. It is taking way too long for a new development to even begin, and this is contributing to lack of desire for new business to enter Albuquerque's economy.

Lastly, Albuquerque should also create Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas all over. Although downtown is a very important location needing improvement, the entire city could benefit from this concept. Should developers want to build, or redevelop anywhere, the city could provide incentives to do so.

Q12

While you have no jurisdiction over the courts and judges, you do have influence over crime reduction in the city. What would you do as City Councilor to address the growing number of criminals on our streets?

We must enforce all laws. I strongly believe in the Broken Windows Theory. We have allowed small crime to go unpunished for so long, now all crime is out of control. Albuquerque has established a new culture that crime is acceptable, and this cannot continue another minute. The best deterrent for crime is the fear of getting caught. The only people who are currently afraid are law-abiding citizens, and this is simply absurd. Littering, speeding, open drug use, violent felonies and everything in-between should not be allowed under any circumstance. We must work with the courts, and state, to end catch and release, strengthen the three strikes laws, and allow for rebuttable presumption.

Q13

Regarding the growing homeless situation, what is your plan as a City Councilor to address the needs of this population?

Albuquerque's increasing struggle with homelessness is a multifaceted challenge. There are multiple reasons people are unhoused, and it is necessary the city offers multiple solutions and support. Some of these individuals are addicted to drugs, some have untreated, unstable substance abuse issues and many struggle with both. Albuquerque does not offer any dual-diagnosis treatment, and there is almost nowhere to obtain substance abuse treatment. I believe the city must lean on and support the experts who are qualified to address these issues, instead of trying to be the one-stop-shop solution costing tax-payer's excessive amounts of money with little to no result. The city must also stop allowing, and start enforcing trespassing, overnight camping, littering, vandalism, open drug use, or any other law being broken by anyone, regardless of their housing situation. There must be a new balance of services offered while laws are always enforced.

Q14

What is your position on Albuquerque being a 'Sanctuary City'?

We all stem from some sort of immigration, and that is what makes America so incredible. The diverse, immigrant culture in New Mexico is even more precious. I support legal immigration and those seeking a better life. I do not support criminals immigrating to Albuquerque to attack everyone else. People are coming to our city because they know they can almost literally get away with murder.

Albuquerque's City Council has to review our Immigrant Friendly City legislation. While people should be encouraged to legally move here, there is a way for balance. As a start, anyone arrested for a violent felony, felony narcotics violation and human trafficking should be detained and their immigration status checked. Albuquerque is in a crime crisis and we have to lean on the Federal government to assist when crimes are so blatantly committed. I am a firm believer in a middle ground. I believe there is a way to welcome legal immigration and deport illegal persons aggressively attacking our society.

Q15

What is your position on the DOJ's control over the Albuquerque Police Department?

Albuquerque's Police Department has effortlessly worked to reform the department so there is no excessive use of force against residents. The City Council has been working to fully staff the Civilian Police Oversight Agency and update this ordinance. Although the Department of Justice may have had a need to place Albuquerque under a consent decree, it is time this decree is ended and our officers are able to be responsible to their department superiors. I believe the APD has done their job, and created policies to ensure they are able to continue Constitutional policing. It is time for the DOJ to relinquish this control over our police department.

Q16

Relating to 2nd Amendment rights, do you support or oppose ordinances or laws that would outlaw high-capacity magazines or 'assault rifle' possession? Please explain your answer.

I am a firm supporter of our Second Amendment rights. Although I do not see the need for individuals to personally own high-capacity magazines, or "assault" rifles, I do not believe municipalities should involve themselves on creating additional ordinances, or laws to outlaw these. It is confusing, frustrating and unnecessary to have individual laws in each city, or town, that would create more problems for citizens.

Q17

Relating to 2nd Amendment rights, do you support or oppose the governor's health order on gun carry restrictions? Please explain your answer.

I oppose the Governor's order to restrict people's 2nd Amendment rights and did so vocally by co-sponsoring resolution R-23-171. We took an oath to protect the Constitution, and we must always respect it. I also see no reason why law-abiding, certified, and qualified people should be punished. These individuals have the right to self-defense. Additionally, this order would never stop a criminal from committing a crime with a firearm. We must stop victimizing the innocent and begin penalized criminals.

Q18

Relating to 'Home Rule', do you support or oppose a city's rights to adopt constitutionally based policies that may conflict with state mandates?

I exercise caution when it comes to the widespread use of "Home Rule" at the local, municipality level. It has the potential to introduce inconsistencies and pose challenges to the overall governance of our city.

Q19

Why are you seeking this office and what makes you the most qualified person to be a City Councilor in this District?

I am a lifelong Albuquerque native, raised in a family of small business owners. My husband is an Albuquerque native, we are raising our four children here, and we are also small business owners. I have been the District 4 City Councilor since 2020. I have been the committee chair of the Finance & Government Operations committee, and have been the chair of the Committee of the Whole for the past two years. I work strongly with the community, and my fellow Councilors, to focus on transparency, fair representation, and effective leadership to reduce crime and homelessness, improve the economic quality of our city, and ensure the daily needs of residents are responded to and improved.

Q20

Have you ever been arrested for a felony or misdemeanor crime? If yes, please explain.

No

Q21

Have you ever been delinquent in paying taxes or other financial obligations? If yes, please explain.

No
