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Q1

Candidate Name:

Idalia Lechuga-Tena

Q2

In what city/town/village do you live?

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Q3

For what position are you running?

Albuquerque City Council District 8

Q4

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

I have lived in the NE Heights my adult life. I moved into my husband's home when we got married. 5 years.

Q5

Email address

idalia4council@gmail.com

Q6

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

My cell is 505-550-3868

Q7

Other Information

Campaign Website

idalia4council.com

Social Media

**Instagram: idalialechugatena / Facebook:
@idalia4council / X: @idalialt**

Q8

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

Fight crime, which is inextricably linked to fentanyl, addiction, homelessness and lack of behavioral health services. The plague of crime, fentanyl, addiction and homeless is everywhere. We need bold solutions. We can't sit idly while the city continues to decay and the plague we all see spreading around our neighborhoods gets closer to our families. Too many have suffered violence, break-ins and crime of every sort. Every city agency, law enforcement official and community group needs to work together with our state partners to end this plague.

My bold solution for addressing the plague of fentanyl, addiction and homelessness, is to bring to Albuquerque a Diversion Program used successfully in Miami-Dade County. It will address unmet needs and reduce recidivism. It is a one-stop shop for addiction and psychiatric services for unhoused people with acute mental illnesses who are in the criminal justice system or at risk of entering it. We cannot incarcerate our way out of mental illness or drug addiction. Drug addiction is responsible 80% of our crimes. Our system and jails are overloaded with people who are untreated. Our District Attorney, Public Defenders, and behavioral health court judges agree that a diversion program can be a method to reduce crime and homelessness. We need all hands on deck.

I hear the victims and families clearly. We need change. Our families need to feel safer. Our streets need to be safer. I want 1600 officers and a stronger police presence in every community. We should support police and first responders with better pay. We need to comply with and end the DOJ consent decree. It's costing too much money and that money needs to be diverted to our community's problems not DoJ's pocket. We need to close the "revolving door" in the court system and fix a broken criminal justice system by working with the NM Legislature.

As a small businesswoman, I will work tirelessly with every small business to reduce red tape at City Hall. I want to have a yearly workforce development conference for every large employer in Albuquerque and New Mexico so we can prepare our children for jobs that will pay them well and keep them here instead of leaving the state.

Q9

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

I think it is useful for business organizations and governments to stop every once and a while, look and see what is working and what is not working. As a City, we should do this. I also think it would be useful to hear from the community about what is working and what is not working specifically in their dealings with the City. I think it is good for Councilors to hear and to know this. I would support the City sponsoring town halls downtown across the City to collect information in this regard and then report to the Council with recommendations from the community of what needs to be done.

Q10

What would you do to streamline permitting and other government red tape in order to attract new business to the Village/City/Town?

We should hear from business that deals with City Government on a day-to-day basis and collect their observances about the problems they face. Once we know what the more specific issues are we should create a path forward to solve the problems. The City Government should be friendly and helpful to our local businesses. I would also like to look at what guidelines we have in place for all permitting. We need to be responsive to businesses who are applying for new or renewed permits. We should look at placing deadlines on permit approvals and if they are not approved by the deadline they are deemed approved. If our City Government is not responsive to business trying to live, grow and employ our citizens we are not doing our jobs.

Q11

Our state holds top national rankings for homicide and other serious crimes. How would you use the position of City Councilor to keep citizens safe?

Budget for and recruit 1600 officers. Support the Community Policing Councils. Comply with the consent decree with integrity. Fully staff APD. Bring in Bernalillo County Sheriffs to help. Get State Police involved. Get DEA and FBI to help. Implement a Diversion Program that will address unmet needs for the homelessness.

Q12

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

We need to get crime, homelessness, fentanyl addiction and lack of behavior health services addressed. When we fix these problems, we will stop seeing stores close down and leave our city. My Diversion Program will help address this.

Q13

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

Budget for and recruit 1600 police officers. Focus on Community Policing Councils. Bring in Bernalillo County Sheriffs to help. Get State Police involved. Get DEA and FBI to help. Finally, bring a Diversion Program used successfully in Miami-Dade County. It will address unmet needs, reduce recidivism rate, and save us millions. It is a one-stop shop for addiction and psychiatric services for unhoused people with acute mental illnesses who are in the criminal justice system or at risk of entering it. We have models that work in other cities; we just need to implement them.

Q14

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

To implement a Diversion Program used successfully in Miami-Dade County. It will address unmet needs, reduce recidivism rate, and save us millions. It is a one-stop shop for addiction and psychiatric services for unhoused people with acute mental illnesses who are in the criminal justice system or at risk of entering it. Homelessness will not be eliminated, but must be managed by government. It is our moral responsibility to take care of the homeless. As a former state representative, I plan to advocate for pay for it with the 3.5 Billion surplus we will have next year. This will rebuild the addiction and behavioral health treatment system, rehabilitate the homeless population in a compassionate way, and focus on prevention. This will be a partnership with ACS, CABQ, Bernalillo County and Sheriff's Office, DA, Attorney General, and our State.

We have models that work in other cities; we just need to implement them. We cannot incarcerate our way out of mental illness or drug addiction. Drug addiction is responsible 80% of our crimes. Our system and jails are overloaded with people who are untreated. Our District Attorney, Public Defenders, and behavioral health court judges agree that a diversion program can be a method to reduce crime and homelessness. Not everyone who is a drug addict is a criminal. This must be done with the help of our Federal and State Government.

Q15

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 law-abiding gun owner. I have also held a conceal carry permit. Consideration of any law to restrict high-capacity magazines and assault rifles is an issue for the State Legislature to consider and decide. In Albuquerque, the City Council needs to fight crime by making sure our police department is fully funded, staffed and trained. We need to get control of fentanyl addiction and homelessness. We need to make sure we have adequate behavioral health services in place for those that need them. We have critical issues facing our community and we need to spend our time solving these problems and let the State Legislature take action on the issues that are properly a part of their statewide jurisdiction.

Q16

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

Please see my answer to 15 above. The Governor's order has already been ruled unconstitutional.

Q17

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

I support Albuquerque home rule rights.

Q18

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

I am seeking this office because our problems are big; I'm sick, and tired of seeing them get worse. I'm sick and tired of seeing division and hate. We need people to come together to address the issues I outlined in all of these answers but in particular No. 8 above. That's why I decided to run for City Council. We need to stop dividing each other and start working on bold solutions, together, for the betterment of our city and its citizens.

I love Albuquerque. I've lived in Albuquerque all my adult life and have the professional experience we need. As the first naturalized woman from México to serve in the NM Legislature in the history of our state, I bring experience, diversity and a strong track record of fighting for the most needy. I'm also a former International Ambassador for Global Peace. I attended the citizens police academy and lead the Community Policing Council, which the DOJ named the best in the nation. I'm a small businesswoman, serve on my Glenwood Hills Neighborhood Association, and serve as secretary of the District 8 Coalition. I have fought food insecurity on the front lines as Vice President of Meals on Wheels of New Mexico. I'm a proud product of Albuquerque Public Schools, Graduated from UNM and speak five languages. I want to take our city back and make it safe for our families and children. We need to stop the senseless violence. Get people the help they need and help our businesses grow and thrive. That is why I am running and why I am the best qualified.

Q19

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

No

Q20

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

No
