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Q1

Candidate Name:

Jeff Hoehn

Q2

District #:

6

Q3

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

21 years

Q4

Email address

jeff4d6@gmail.com

Q5

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

505-868-5428

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website

jeff4d6.com

Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/JeffHoehn4D6> See my website for other social media links.

Q7

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

Public safety. Unless our city is clean and safe then we will not see the investment in homes and businesses that will create a prospering Albuquerque. I will advocate for enforcement of existing laws and ordinances that maintain law and order. I support mobile APD command units in the highest crime areas to disrupt the known cycles of crime. Let's immediately evaluate and reallocate all available crime response and prevention resources, not just police. We need to increase cooperation between APD and the Albuquerque Community Safety Department. We need to emphasize community policing. Increased use of technology can also stretch public safety resources. Increased funding for substance abuse and mental health treatment will have an impact on both crime and homelessness.

Q8

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

Let's start by comprehensively analyzing existing ordinances and regulations to understand their history and intended purpose. Then, we can identify areas where improvements and amendments may be needed. The city should commission targeted cost-benefit analyses of existing and proposed ordinances and regulations. We must weigh both the benefits to the community and the financial, administrative, and societal costs. Then, let's make sure the benefits outweigh the costs. Lastly, we need to assess how effectively current ordinances are being enforced. If there are problems with enforcement, let's address that before we add any new ordinances or regulations.

Q9

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

There is so much that needs to be reformed to streamline permitting in Albuquerque. My top priority would be to initiate a thorough review of the permitting processes and licensing requirements to identify outdated, redundant, or overly complex rules. We need to make a significant investment in an online platform that allows businesses to apply for permits and licenses, access information previously submitted, and monitor the status of their applications in real time to ensure accountability. Let's standardize and simplify permit application forms and make them easy to understand and complete. Let's reduce the documentation requirements to only what is truly necessary. Establishing one-stop permit centers where businesses can submit all applications and necessary documentation in a single visit will improve efficiency enormously. Most importantly, we must create a short time frame for permit and license approval so businesses can get their doors open. All of this will make it much more attractive to do business in Albuquerque.

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?

There is no more critical function of government than keeping people safe. City Council must work with the mayor to take up some practical, data-driven initiatives that we can implement right now. We would see reduced crime with mobile police command units in the most high crime areas. We must support and extend real community policing initiatives that foster positive relationships between police and the communities they serve, especially in those communities that are most impacted by crime. I'd like to see officers engage with residents, attend community meetings, and build lasting trust. The Albuquerque Police Department needs to increase staffing levels, allowing for a more visible police presence in neighborhoods with high crime rates. City Council can support and expand crime prevention programs, such as neighborhood watch groups, youth mentoring programs, and after-school activities and programs. Additionally, let's invest in a state-of-the-art lighting system that lights up our city. Crime hates a stage.

Q11

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

There are many things we can do to support and retain our vital business community. My top priority will be to work with local economic development agencies to develop robust business retention programs. These programs would include regular check-ins and support to help businesses stay and grow. We need policies and initiatives that specifically help small and local businesses. Some examples are grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance programs. We need to streamline permitting and licensing, to reduce the administrative burden on existing and potential businesses. As a city we should consider tax incentives, such as property tax abatements, to incentivize businesses to stay and invest in Albuquerque. Let's promote Albuquerque as a tourist destination like no other. This will grow the hospitality and service industries, which will in turn increase local spending.

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?

I will support funding and resources for the Albuquerque Police Department and other public safety departments to ensure effective law enforcement and public safety services. We need to focus on police officer retention programs, so that our police stay in the community. We need to finally get out from under the DOJ consent decree with integrity so we can get officers back on the street. Police Service Aides and Metro and Transit Security can be proactively out on the streets as priority-one reporters in high crime areas. APD must be directed to arrest those with warrants or who are openly using drugs in our public spaces.

Q13

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

Here are three things we can do that will make a real difference: 1) Develop a series of smaller population specific shelters that will be attractive to the unhoused and have little or no impact on neighborhoods. 2) Invest in eviction prevention programs that pay a month's rent or overdue utility bills. 3) Align the nonprofit and faith-based providers working to end homelessness.

As a city we should also consider environmental design changes such as roadway medians that are built with cemented boulders that discourage panhandling. Underpasses and similar areas should be fenced off so that tents cannot be set up. Tent cities are not acceptable and they are dangerous for those living in them as we know that the chance of physical assault is very high. We must improve direct outreach to the chronically homeless so that they will be more likely to accept housing assistance and services.

Q14

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

As City Councilor I will support Albuquerque's continued commitment to supporting law abiding immigrants and refugees.

Q15

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

The United States Department of Justice does not control the City of Albuquerque or APD, but we do remain under constraints and requirements pursuant to the mandates of the consent decree that the city entered into with the DOJ. The supervision, monitoring and reporting required under the consent decree has improved constitutional policing in our city. We now have fewer instances of unlawful use of force including fatal police shootings. But the city and APD cannot be burdened by the consent decree forever. We must ensure full compliance so that we can end the consent decree. This will take hard work and commitment but we are close.

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 do support restrictions on assault-style rifles and high-capacity magazines. However, we must take a multifaceted approach to the very serious issue of gun violence. Limited, tailored restrictions on firearms such as assault-style rifles is just one piece of this. I also support laws that require secure firearm storage. I support interventions to prevent gun violence in school settings. The alarming increase in gun homicides is not just an Albuquerque problem; it is a national problem. We need to think deeper than gun control and remember that reliable social services support people who are at the highest risk for violence. Illegal guns and their connection to crime should be our major focus, not limiting the rights of responsible gun owners.

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 think it is commendable that the governor is raising the profile of our problem with gun violence, especial gun violence involving children. But the governor knows that the public health order is unconstitutional and will be struck down in federal court. I cannot support any government action that clearly goes against our New Mexico and United States constitutions.

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?

Albuquerque is a "Home Rule" municipality and I support that status. Home Rule means that as a city we may adopt and implement our own policies so long as they are not expressly denied by state statute, and do not violate the state constitution. Home Rule recognizes a city's inherent right to local self-determination. This is in contrast to the "Dillon Rule" wherein municipalities are merely creatures of state government. In general, Home Rule is beneficial as it allows for local governments to serve as laboratories of democracy that can experiment with innovative policies that can be scaled up to the state or even national level. Home Rule allows for decisions that are in the best interest of the local community, and that are reflective of the values and priorities of those who live there everyday. I believe that in many, many instances local governments are better equipped to address truly local issues, such as land use and public safety. Albuquerque should no hesitate to lead on important issues even where the state lags behind.

Q19

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

I love Albuquerque and I want to see it thrive and become the city of the future that I know we have the potential to become. We need genuine leadership on City Council because our city is at a crossroads where crime and homelessness are threatening to define us. I know that we can do better as a city. I have lived in District 6 for 21 years and have a master's degree in Public Administration from UNM. This degree has equipped me with the knowledge and skills to analyze data, manage budgets and measure results. More importantly, though, I am a proven leader. Over the last 10 years I have led two well respected nonprofit organizations. I am currently Executive Director of Cuidando Los Niños, a nonprofit that helps homeless children and their families. Under my leadership over the last 5 years, Cuidando Los Niños has grown from a \$800,000 per year to a \$4 million per year budget. We have expanded pay and benefits for our employees. Most importantly, we have increased our programs and expanded the number of homeless families served from 40 to 225 a year. This is what real community impact looks like. I will bring this same growth mindset to the City Council. We can do better.

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.
