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COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Name:

Kristin "Raven" GReene

Q2

In what city/town/village do you live?

Albuquerque

Q3

For what position are you running?

City Council in District 6

Q4

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

I've lived in District 6 for more than 17 years

Q5

Email address

kristin.raven.greene@gmail.com

Q6

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

505-633-6638

Q7

Other Information

Campaign Website

www.raven4D6.com

Social Media

www.facebook.com/raven4district6,
www.instagram.com/kristin.raven.greene

Q8

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

If elected, my first priority for my district would be to get us on an even economic footing with much of the rest of the city. Economic development is crucial to the health of every district in every city, and has been the biggest plank in my campaign platform from Day One. Economic development and concerted reinvestment will help curb several of the major concerns affecting both District 6 and the entire city: poverty, crime, and homelessness. Poverty can only be combated with higher wages, diverse job markets, access to child care, safe and consistent transportation, and affordable housing. By working together on the root causes of poverty we can curtail crime in our city and help prevent the financial falls that can trigger homelessness. By utilizing state and federal grant programs and making start-up dollars available to our local entrepreneurs, we not only build new, local businesses, we give these entrepreneurs a real chance at success while bringing a more robust job market to the community. A strong job market and the resulting competitive wages are critical to breaking the cycle of generational poverty and giving our local business people a voice and a stake in shaping the future of their communities. While not a silver bullet, we know that a healthy economy results in healthy communities.

Q9

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

As a City Councilor, I would encourage open dialog between citizens and my office whether in valuable community meetings, by phone, or by email, collecting and reviewing their feedback, opinions, and insights on the impact of our ordinances and regulations on their daily lives and within our business communities. Gathering data is imperative toward determining the usefulness and appropriateness of City ordinances and rules. Carrying forth the voices of constituents to city officials, City Councilors such as myself can ensure that new laws are both helpful and necessary while preventing unnecessary burdens on our citizens.

Q10

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

The city has been doing a lot to upgrade and improve the online building permitting process. There needs to be better public service announcement-type educational information available for homeowners, small contractors and DIYers. For example, many homeowners face delays and additional expenses when required to obtain a variance for a non-complying and/or non-permitted wall—and their contractor never told them it needed to be permitted.

Most importantly of all, the Planning department needs to be fully staffed in order to shorten turnaround times for approvals, and our city is operating at a deficit when it comes to hiring and retaining qualified employees in every department. And for what it's worth, a certain amount of "red tape" is desirable and necessary to protect our neighborhoods.

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?

As a City Councilor, I would advocate for the creation and/or continuance of monthly safety meetings between the City, APD, ACS, neighborhood associations, Neighborhood Watch commands, and other public safety entities to pinpoint and map crime occurring across not only our district, but the City at large these coordinated meetings would allow us to work in tandem with and redirect the necessary officers, mobile crime units, ACS units, and PSA units into areas experiencing upticks in serious crime that month. I would also advocate for the reallocation of the approximately 30% of police budgeting currently being used to pay for officer overtime and dedicate that to the hiring, training, and retention of new police recruits. Additionally, I feel it would behoove us to ensure that high crime areas are well lit and outfitted with technology such as Shot Spotter and public safety alarms. I would also encourage mentoring opportunities for at-risk youth as well as programs aimed at reducing recidivism in those already incarcerated. Closing loopholes in our justice system, ensuring that officers are available for court dates, and enforcing the laws which we already have will also go a long way to helping our citizens with staying safe from violent crime.

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?

My first order of business would be reinvestment in the areas where businesses are struggling. We have seen this administration implement grants and other funds along with the creation of Opportunity Zones in areas such as Downtown, which have in turn created an attractive area for businesses to move in while existing ones thrive. In District 6, the businesses that are closing are located in areas that have seen zero reinvestment from the city, a sad state of neglect that spans decades. This is but one issue that I have brought up in City Council meetings repeatedly; our district cannot survive when the City refuses to grant us the equity that the City itself promised when it adopted the ABC (ABQ BernCo) comprehensive plan, which underscores the need for safe, sustainable, walkable communities city-wide. We absolutely must reinvest in our business corridors- especially our underutilized, neglected stretch of eastern Route 66, which is a squandered opportunity for bringing in millions of dollars annually in tourist revenue. Reinvestment in the form of better lighting, traffic signals including HAWK systems, landscaped medians, trees, and hardscapes including enhanced sidewalks will go a long way toward attracting new businesses while signaling support for existing ones. Increased presence of law enforcement in the form of mobile commands, shift change presence (where officers congregate while filling out end-of-shift reports), and public safety sweeps- which are being touted as "strike forces" in advance of events such as Balloon Fiesta when in fact they are basic public safety- as enjoyed in other areas of town. Shifting the blame for lax safety policies and lax law enforcement onto business owners is a shameful practice and needs to stop immediately, unless the City can prove complicity, as this undermines the faith that the business community has in CABQ. Without this reinvestment in our struggling business corridors, we will continue to see the loss of our necessary businesses.

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?

As I addressed earlier, we will never get crime under control until we address the root causes, the largest being poverty. Albuquerque suffers disproportionately from generational poverty, conditions in which it is nearly impossible for older generations to acquire assets that will give younger generations an easier path in life. By fostering a healthy economy and presenting better-paying, competitive job markets, we will see crime reduced as prosperity climbs. We can also do more by literally changing our environment with the planting of green spaces, creation of parks and public spaces, and by planting trees. Trees not only help to cool our environment, reduce air pollution, and counter Urban Heat Island effects, they encourage residents to get outside, fostering "eyes on the street," a known deterrent to criminal activity. In Baltimore, the US Forestry Service found that for every 10% of canopy, there was a corresponding 12% reduction in overall crime. In a study of public housing projects in Chicago, researchers found 52% fewer crimes reported near buildings surrounded by trees and green spaces, while in New York City, neighborhoods with higher investment in public green space experience an average of 213 fewer felonies per year. Furthering our change of environment, reinvesting in District 6 with better street lighting will keep residents safer after dark. Redirecting the estimated 30% of the police budget that goes toward paying for overtime and redirecting those funds toward the hiring and retaining of new officers will allow us to properly staff the police forces needed across the city. Continuing to properly fund, staff, and train the Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) teams will offset the use of police officers for non-violent calls. Ultimately, though, we as a city need to acknowledge and address the fact that- despite best efforts and opportunities- there are those who prefer a life of crime. Once we acknowledge this, we can take steps to address it by enforcing the laws we already have on the books, closing loopholes in our justice system, and adopting intervention practices such as youth mentorship, and implementing successful jail rehabilitation programs that are aimed to prevent recidivism.

Q14

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

My commitment to finding solutions for our unsheltered population has been consistent since getting involved with the Gateway shelter at the onset, which earned me the position as Homelessness Solutions Chair in both the District 6 Coalition as well as in my capacity as an elected board member of the Elder Homestead Neighborhood Association. Now, more than three years since the Gateway's inception, I liaise with the City monthly to hold them accountable to the promises made to our vulnerable population as well as mitigating the very real adverse impacts being felt by the communities into which this project was placed. We need a system of care that oversees each person's journey so that, as I have heard from so many clawing their way out of homelessness, they do not fall between the cracks and go unaided. We need innovative approaches to solutions that are as diverse as the population that needs them. Whether this is adopting a model such as the extremely successful diversionary treatment program implemented by Miami-Dade (and now being picked up by several Northern cities) which is aimed at assisting those who are unaware and unable to consent for help; restructuring the failing shelter system to the safer, smaller satellite system that was strongly championed for by the professionals deeply involved in assisting the unhoused; or revisiting ideas such as non-neighborhood-adjacent safe outdoor spaces for those unwilling to go into care, we need to take bold steps to make real, substantive change for our citizens in crisis. However, our bold steps need to be community and evidence-based and we need to strongly regard the input of residents, businesses, and community stakeholders when making sweeping decisions that affect our neighborhoods.

As your next city council member I promise that I will always give it to you straight. The taxpayers have been saddled with an \$80 million dollar investment in the form of the Gateway system that has a 96% fail rate. We could have purchased each of the roughly 300 people moving through that system a \$266,000.00 house and solved the homelessness of each of those citizens. It is time to rewrite the script on how we truly help the unhoused.

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.

As a Gun Sense Candidate, I support ordinances that would outlaw high-capacity magazines. Any firearm that is equipped with high-capacity magazines can and does make an instance of violence significantly more deadly than your basic firearm could. These are absolutely a threat to public safety. We have already seen that those states which banned high-capacity magazines have a much lower incidence of mass shootings, as well as far fewer fatalities when mass shootings occurred.

Q16

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

While I applaud the governor for bringing this topic to the forefront of people's collective consciousness, I do not support her health order as it infringes on the Constitutional rights of our citizens. Unconstitutional approaches toward gun safety undermines the efforts of all of those working toward real solutions for a growing problem.

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 feel that there are instances where adopting a constitutionally-based Home Rule could be beneficial to Albuquerque as we may find it easier to resolve local issues with solutions based on our unique needs and population which may differ from those of the state at large. This is especially important when it comes to state laws which may favor corporations over community and impact the ability to refute projects which may harm our citizens or environment. By adopting constitutionally-based Home Rule, we can ensure that our city can foster the creation of the safe, sustainable neighborhoods our district needs without undue interference from entities that may seek to exploit our community.

Q18

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

I believe that I am the most qualified candidate for City Council because I have actively engaged our community and its leaders not because it was within my job description to do so, but because I have been motivated by my passion for our community to do so. I have been deeply engaged in countless City Council meetings, bringing the voice of my District directly to City Hall. In more than 4 years of Council, IDO, Planning, Housing Forward, neighborhood association, Gateway, and community activist meetings, I have never once seen any one of my opponents present or heard them speaking up for our residents until after announcing their run for office. My run for office is the natural progression of my involvement with, and my commitment to, my community, which has given me the experience to maneuver through city hall with fresh ideas and real solutions. I've spent half a decade visiting with many people in this district and hearing directly from them what they want to see from a City Councilor; they want a representative who is accessible, attentive, and accommodating, and who will follow through on their promises long after Election Day has passed. I know that I can be that City Councilor, and as such, I have announced my retirement from my 25-year career as an independent contractor so that I may make City Council my full-time job because District 6 needs and deserves a full-time Councilor whose door will always be open. I will not only visit with constituents at City Hall but will remain actively engaged in the meetings mentioned previously, listening to constituent concerns and ideas and turning those into actions. I am not a politician, and therefore I am not beholden to special interests or administration ties that may impede my ability to represent our people and our district fairly. I believe that I am most qualified because I've been out here, doing the work, and I will continue to do so.

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.

Like many New Mexicans, I have- at times- been overburdened financially in the past when work dried up and income slowed to a trickle. Fortunately, I had been given the opportunity to join a payment plan to satisfy repayment. I encourage anyone facing financial hardship to do the same rather than facing the ramifications involved with delinquency.
