



# NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

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## Q1

Candidate Name: (As it will appear on the ballot)

Mayling Armijo

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## Q2

In what quadrant of Albuquerque do you reside?

Northeast Albuquerque

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## Q3

How long have you lived in Albuquerque?

I was born in Albuquerque and grew up in a military family, so we moved around quite a bit. However, I've lived consistently in Albuquerque since 1995. Altogether, I've spent about 40 years in this city I proudly call home.

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## Q4

Email address

Contact@armijo4mayor.com

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## Q5

Phone number for voters to reach you.

505-633-5713

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**Q6**

Other Information

Campaign Website

<https://armijo4mayor.com>

Social Media

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/Armijo4Mayor](https://facebook.com/Armijo4Mayor) **Instagram:** [instagram.com/armijo4mayor](https://instagram.com/armijo4mayor) **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/company/armijo4mayor](https://linkedin.com/company/armijo4mayor) **YouTube:** [youtube.com/@Armijo4Mayor](https://youtube.com/@Armijo4Mayor) **BlueSky:** [@armijo4mayor.bsky.social](https://armijo4mayor.bsky.social) **X:** [@Armijo4Mayor](https://twitter.com/Armijo4Mayor)

**Q7**

Economic development: Albuquerque business owners have reported that getting permits can take 6 months or longer, and needless 'red tape' stifles efforts to open or expand. What will you do to speed up business permits and other business requirements to encourage economic development, business expansion, and new businesses?

I bring a strong track record in economic and business development, including managing complex operations as Deputy County Manager for Sandoval County and a decade as Economic Development Director for Bernalillo County. I understand how frustrating it is when red tape and long wait times stall progress and am currently working with businesses who the permitting process is hurting. My vision for Albuquerque is a city where small businesses and developers can thrive, not struggle to navigate an outdated system.

We must overhaul the permitting process to make it clear, concise, and consistent. The construction industry, in particular, needs a dependable and equitable process to keep projects on time and on budget. When the rules are unclear or applied unevenly, it leads to costly delays and discourages investment.

I will champion a fully online, user-friendly permit application system with real-time updates and a dedicated helpline to provide step-by-step support. Every application would be reviewed within a defined timeline. If a permit is denied, applicants must receive written guidance outlining how to correct and resubmit their application quickly.

Just as important, we need to empower city staff with the tools, training, and authority necessary to operate at the speed of business. Time is money for both business owners and city government. By streamlining processes and ensuring consistent service, we can make Albuquerque a city that truly supports growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

That's the kind of smart, responsive leadership I'll bring to City Hall.

**Q8**

Homelessness: Albuquerque's homeless population has grown exponentially in the past few years and is creating problems for both the homeless and the residents of the city. Please answer the following questions: Do you support or oppose expanding legal 'safe outdoor spaces' for camps around Albuquerque?

**Support,**

Please Explain:

I support expanding legal and safe outdoor spaces for camps. These spaces, however, should be considered temporary until we are able to substantially reduce the homeless population in Albuquerque. It is necessary to identify the reason for homelessness and seek to address the unique needs of each homeless person or family. There are four (4) types of homelessness. • Chronic homelessness: Someone who has been continuously homeless for over a year or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the previous three years. These people tend to be older and are often struggling with complex health issues, disabilities, mental illness or addiction. They typically live on the street, in a car, a park or another location not suitable for human habitation. • Episodic homelessness: A person that has experienced at least three periods of homelessness in the previous year. Many of these individuals are younger people who may suffer from health issues or addiction. Help at this stage is critical as episodic homelessness can quickly turn into chronic homelessness and issues can become more severe. • Transitional Homelessness: This is the most common type of homelessness and has become more prevalent as a result of the pandemic. This is a person who has become homeless due to a major life change or catastrophic event. These are individuals who don't have a "safety net" of family support or a financial cushion to fall back on. Generally these are younger people and families who turn to a shelter or temporary housing system for only a brief stay. • Hidden Homelessness: This type of homelessness often goes unreported and undocumented. It includes those who are temporarily living with friends, family or hotels. They have no guarantee that they will be able to stay long term and no immediate way to find a home. Their struggles and instability are no less difficult and must be addressed. Expanding legal safe outdoor spaces for homeless camps has been tried in other cities with some success. I am in favor of this approach in Albuquerque but believe that camps must be a safe haven and would require a city budget to ensure there are resources for sanitation, security and support services that address the cornerstones of homelessness – housing, healthcare, mental healthcare, drug and alcohol addiction, childcare, transportation and support for recovery of traumatic events. Camps are certainly not a solution, but would be useful on a temporary basis until we can increase adequate, affordable housing.

**Q9**

What is your plan to deal with illegal encampments in the city?

The U.S. Supreme Court's June 28, 2024, decision made it clear that cities have the authority to address illegal encampments on public property. This ruling gives Albuquerque the ability to take decisive action to protect public health, safety, and the integrity of our shared spaces.

As Mayor, I will take a balanced and compassionate approach. I understand the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness, but I also have a responsibility to ensure that our parks, sidewalks, and neighborhoods remain safe and accessible for all. Homelessness is a deeply complex issue, but can be preventable and solvable. Allowing encampments to grow without limits is neither compassionate nor sustainable.

I will enforce the City's Public Camping Ordinance (O-24-58), which generally prohibits camping in public spaces, with some exceptions. We will continue using a tiered response system that prioritizes action based on the size, location, and conditions of each encampment. Outreach teams will offer support and resources, while the Albuquerque Police Department will identify individuals, check for outstanding warrants, and issue trespass notifications on private property when needed.

At the same time, enforcement must be paired with real solutions. Sixty percent of New Mexico's homeless population is in the Albuquerque area. Our current shelters are not built to handle the true scale of this need. We cannot continue to warehouse people in overcrowded or inadequate facilities. We must invest in building a true continuum of care that includes transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, mental health and substance use services, and job assistance programs.

This continuum must not only address the crisis we face today, but also provide a foundation for lasting progress in the years ahead. It is time to treat homelessness as a complex issue requiring coordinated, compassionate, and consistent action.

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**Q10**

Do you support using taxpayer dollars for homeless programs? If you support, what kind of programs would you seek to fund?

**Support,**

Please explain::

Yes, I support using taxpayer dollars for homeless programs. Homelessness is not inevitable. It is the result of cycles of poverty, addiction, and at times, policy decisions. During the height of the pandemic, we saw what was possible when we chose to act. The nation came together to invest in housing, healthcare, and income supports to keep people from losing their homes. The 2021 American Rescue Plan Act delivered the single-largest federal investment in addressing homelessness in our country's history. That was proof that with the right priorities, we can make meaningful progress. As Mayor, I would support using taxpayer funds to build more affordable housing, convert vacant hotels and motels into safe shelter options, and create a rental assistance program that also includes eviction prevention services. This means helping individuals and families stay housed before they fall into crisis, which is both more humane and more cost-effective than trying to rehouse them after the fact. I will also ensure that Albuquerque continues its partnership with national efforts like the Federal House America Initiative. This program brings together federal agencies and local leaders to rehouse individuals and families while accelerating the development of affordable housing using American Rescue Plan resources. While we want to deepen these partnerships, we must be realistic that federal funding may be reduced or cut in the future. Because of that, we will need to work creatively and explore new local and regional strategies to achieve the same positive results. Solving homelessness requires more than an emergency response. It demands sustained investment, strategic planning, and the political will to act.

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**Q11**

Will you cooperate with or oppose federal agencies regarding the deportation of those who have entered the U.S. illegally and are a threat to society?

**Cooperate,**

Please explain::

My administration will cooperate inasmuch as we will not prohibit cooperation with federal agencies altogether, but we will limit the extent of that cooperation with regard to immigration enforcement. We will not use limited resources, such as personnel or funds, for tasks related to enforcing federal immigration laws.

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**Q12**

**Crime:** Albuquerque is in a crime crisis, and is one of the most dangerous cities of its size in the U.S. Please answer the following: How would you empower the Albuquerque police force to better address this situation?

**Restore Trust and Empowerment for Law Enforcement:** The current system at the Albuquerque Police Department has left our police officers powerless and deflated. Under the current administration, criminals are being released with no accountability. As Mayor, I will work together with other City, County and State agencies to ensure accused criminals are not released early and are held accountable for the crimes they commit. I will ensure that police officers have the tools, resources, and the freedom to act under the laws without the constant frustration of bureaucratic red tape. We must move forward to empower those who are sworn to protect us.

**Immediate Changes to Policing Procedures:** As Mayor I will take immediate action to change the current policing procedures in the City of Albuquerque including, but limited to the following:

- Policies and procedures utilized by the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office and the Albuquerque Police Department will be uniform in nature creating a standard for dealing with crime in our City
- Standards for the what constitutes use of force incident will be immediately changed so that there will no longer be an extraordinary waste of valuable police officer's time in investigating incidents where use of force is not evident.
- Police officers will be authorized to use their own judgment to determine if an citation should issued or an arrest should be made for a any offense including but not limited to misdemeanor such as causing damage to businesses, defecating in public or threatening behavior. There will no longer be any excuses. If a crime is being committed the option of arrest will be left up to the police officers at the scene.

**Police Shortage:** The City of Albuquerque is experiencing a severe police shortage, brought on by many factors going way back to prior administrations. It is estimated that approximately 60 police officers retire each year. Keller's administration has increased salaries to a competitive level, but has not been successful at hiring enough police officers to maintain a safe City. In 2023, Mayor Keller said he's given up hope of hitting the longstanding goal of having 1,200 officers. Instead of working harder to achieve his goal, he narrowed officer tasks and decided to rely on civilians and technology to "fill in the gaps". This is totally unacceptable.

Chief Harold Medina claims we have "somewhere around" 885 sworn officers. The truth is, we only have 260 officers assigned to "street duty". This means that at times, there are only two or three officers covering an entire area command. More must be done – no excuses.

**Mayling's Plan**

- Establish heavy recruitment aimed at military and veteran segments of our population.
- Create the first of its kind PSA high school program to create a career path for high school students to move into Public Service Aid positions leading to becoming sworn officers.
- Step up efforts to actively recruit officers from around our State and throughout the Country to help us build our police force.
- Create task forces to target crime categories such as car theft, vandalism, property crime and shoplifting.
- Improve the current call for service system to direct calls to proper agencies instead of requiring police officers to answer all calls. It is estimated that 75% of calls for service do not require the assistance of a police officer. Currently, it is estimated that police officers can have in excess of 50 calls holding at one time in certain area commands. Directing calls to agencies that can better service the needs of the community will free up time for police officers.
- Establish means of restorative justice for nonviolent offenders
- Establish an extensive community service option for youthful offenders convicted of nonviolent offenses.
- Support and lobby for swift and harsh judgment for all violent offenders.
- Establish a Youth Task Force in order to engage young people and create opportunities.

**Community Engagement and Direct Action:** As Mayor I will continue the focus on rebuilding the relationship between law enforcement officers and members of the Albuquerque community through accessible forums scheduled on a regular basis. Residents of Albuquerque will be able to voice concerns. Feedback from the community will lead to real, concrete action. Public safety must be

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viewed as a partnership. My administration will work with the community to ensure Albuquerque becomes a safe place to live and prosper. I will have an open-door policy with the citizens of Albuquerque.

**Hold Property Owners Accountable:** Vacant properties in Albuquerque are a blight on the community and a breeding ground for crime. My administration will incentivize property owners to fill these spaces with businesses that serve the public. If properties remain empty and are allowed to decay, owners will be held accountable.

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### Q13

Some businesses are afraid to call for police assistance when a crime is committed because they don't want to be labeled a nuisance property. What will you do to ensure that businesses are receiving proper police protection?

As Mayor, I would make sure that all business owners and law enforcement authorities are aware of what constitutes a nuisance business within the City of Albuquerque. Simply calling the police for assistance when a crime is committed is not considered a nuisance. Under my administration, businesses would be encouraged to reach out to law enforcement in the event of a commission of a crime. To be clear, a public nuisance is anything that is injurious to public health, safety, morals or welfare, or interferes with the exercise and enjoyment of public rights. Businesses would only be considered a 'nuisance business' if they are in disrepair or pose a structural hazard or unsafe condition due to inadequate maintenance or, if they attract criminal activity or create unsafe conditions that violate City ordinances in relation to public health, safety, or well-being. Under my administration, law enforcement officers would be trained on the specifics of nuisance properties and would be able to inform business owners of conditions that would constitute a nuisance property and remedies afforded under the law.

I would continue to have Code Enforcement address issues that violate City ordinances and I would continue to manage the Problematic Properties Program that focuses on identifying and addressing properties that pose a public nuisance, such as abandoned, mismanaged or substandard properties that attract criminal activity. Business owners would be afforded an opportunity to address and correct any such issues that may pose a threat of being labeled a 'nuisance property.'

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### Q14

Albuquerque Police Chief Harold Medina was involved in a highly controversial car crash. The corruption within APD, including high-ranking officials on DWI cases, is alarming. On the positive side, it was recently announced that the Department of Justice consent decree will soon end. If elected, would you retain or replace Chief Medina?

### Replace,

Please explain::

If elected, one of my first orders of business would be to recruit and appoint a new Chief of Police who embodies the understanding that empowering officers and fostering trust in the community are essential for progress. The Chief must ensure that the police department has the necessary resources and autonomy to keep Albuquerque safe. They must act as an example to the men and women on our police force and must conduct themselves in a manner in which is expected of a person of authority. There will be no excuses if I am Mayor of Albuquerque.

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**Q15**

How will you stop the open drug dealing and drug use in Albuquerque?

I would employ a multifaceted approach that blends law enforcement, public health initiatives and community engagement. I would establish a special unit at the Albuquerque Police Department to focus on arresting drug dealers and disrupting open-air drug markets by conducting undercover operations and instituting controlled buys to gather evidence and arrest offenders. I would authorize increased police presence in areas known for open drug activity. I would prioritize expending access to substance abuse treatment and recovery programs. I would support and encourage public health campaigns in our schools aimed at awareness and risks associated with drug use. I believe that mental health issues are often associated with substance abuse and, therefore, I would expand mental health services to individuals with substance abuse issues.

**Q16**

If elected, would you expand, reduce, or maintain the size of Albuquerque's Government? If applicable, please explain where growth or reduction would occur and how.

**Reduce,**

Please explain::

Before considering any growth in Albuquerque's government, we will first look within to identify opportunities to increase capacity and improve efficiency. We must maximize the impact of our current resources and operate as a lean, accountable, and results-driven organization. Only after these options have been fully exhausted would I support growing the city government. If elected, I would support strategic growth—but only when necessary—in key areas that directly improve public safety, reduce homelessness, and foster economic and job growth. Expanding resources where they can have the greatest impact is essential to creating a safer, healthier, and more prosperous community for all residents. Any growth must deliver a positive return on investment for the public. If a program or department does not demonstrate clear, measurable benefits, we will not expand it. We will prioritize investments that reduce crime, address homelessness with proven solutions, and support economic development and job creation.



**Q17**

What specific plans do you have to improve Albuquerque's infrastructure and road conditions, and how will you prioritize and fund these improvements?

Albuquerque's infrastructure is the foundation of public safety, economic growth, and livable neighborhoods. As mayor, I will make infrastructure a strategic investment—not just patchwork maintenance.

My plan includes:

**Prioritize Site Readiness to Attract New Business:** We'll invest in preparing shovel-ready sites across Albuquerque, especially in areas with economic potential but underutilized land. That means building out roads, utilities, and broadband access to make it easier for companies to choose Albuquerque. Business recruitment starts with infrastructure.

**Strategic Infrastructure Investments to Support Economic Growth:** I will direct infrastructure dollars to support job-creating developments—like industrial parks, innovation districts, and commercial corridors. These investments will align with economic development goals to attract new industries and strengthen our tax base.

**Repair with Purpose:** Our road repair strategy will prioritize not just worst-first conditions, but also economic and community impact—fixing major commuter routes, freight corridors, and access points to business hubs. Safe, efficient roads help people and goods move better across the city.

**Public-Private Partnerships and Smart Funding:** We'll collaborate with businesses and developers to co-invest in infrastructure, especially when projects create long-term community benefit. I will also pursue competitive federal and state infrastructure grants, and propose transparent bond initiatives tied to high-impact projects.

**Equity in Infrastructure:** Economic opportunity must reach every neighborhood. We'll invest in historically underserved areas—improving streets, lighting, sidewalks, and drainage—to make them safer and more attractive for families and future development.

As Bernalillo County's Economic Development Director, I brought in over \$1.4 billion in private investment and helped create more than 5,000 jobs. I know how to leverage infrastructure to drive economic growth, and I'm ready to do the same for Albuquerque.

Infrastructure isn't just about filling potholes. It's about preparing Albuquerque for the future. With the right leadership, we can grow jobs, improve quality of life, and build a city that works for everyone. With the right infrastructure and leadership, Albuquerque won't just compete. We'll lead. And businesses will be at the center of that success.

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