



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

Q1

Candidate Name:

Joshua Neal

Q2

For what City Council District are you running?

District 1

Q3

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

Four years (since re-districting)

Q4

Email address where voters can reach you:

nealform@gmail.com

Q5

Phone number where voters can reach you:

505-457-8142

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website

www.nealformm.com

Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JoshuaNealNM>

Twitter: @nealformm

Campaign Manager (name & phone)

Alan Sanchez, +15059748788

Q7

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

My first priority as a City Councilor will be to make Albuquerque a safer city by addressing crime. Businesses cannot thrive, jobs cannot grow, and families cannot feel secure if crime continues to drive people away and discourage investment. Public safety is the foundation of everything else—without it, we cannot effectively tackle homelessness or attract the housing and economic development we need. By restoring safety in our neighborhoods, we create an environment where small businesses can succeed, new development can take root, and Albuquerque can grow into the vibrant, prosperous city we all know it can be.

Q8

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

Our biggest need is housing development. Here's how I'll make that easier:

1. Pre-approve site-ready land for workforce housing: I'll work to identify and pre-entitle underutilized city-owned and privately held parcels near transit, schools, and job centers. By getting ahead on zoning and infrastructure analysis, we reduce risk and speed up development.
2. Implement a fast-track permitting program: I'll introduce a tiered permitting process where workforce and attainable housing projects that meet clear criteria—like affordability thresholds and location priorities—get guaranteed review within 30–45 days.
3. Update the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO): I'll lead an initiative to revise IDO barriers—like excessive parking minimums, height restrictions, and lot coverage limits—that prevent feasible construction housing.

These reforms will add real housing supply while keeping projects viable—and I'll make sure neighborhood engagement happens up front so we reduce opposition later.

Q9

What specifically would you do to reduce crime in ABQ and help ensure citizen safety?

Public safety is the number one job of city government, and as your City Councilor, I'll fight crime on three critical fronts: enforcement, prevention, and accountability.

First, enforcement. We need to support our police officers by fully staffing our department, improving response times, and providing the best training in de-escalation, mental health response, and community policing. When officers are respected, well-trained, and present in our neighborhoods, crime goes down.

Second, prevention. We must be proactive, not just reactive. That means fixing streetlights, cleaning up blighted areas, removing graffiti, and expanding neighborhood watch programs. We also need to invest in youth—after-school programs, mentorship, and community centers keep kids off the streets and reduce future crime.

And third, accountability - not just for the leadership of APD, but also to the metrics and standards we hold ourselves to. As a Councilor, I'll push for data-driven policing and transparency. Let's create public safety dashboards, hold regular public hearings, and track real outcomes—not just arrests, but reductions in crime. We need to know what's working and what's not.

Q10

What policies would you enact or repeal to ensure ABQ is more business-friendly?

To make Albuquerque more business-friendly, I would work to repeal or revise the City's current Project Labor Agreement (PLA) requirements. These mandates drive up construction costs, discourage competition, and limit opportunities for many local small businesses and non-union contractors. By removing unnecessary barriers and opening up bidding, we can save taxpayer dollars and create a level playing field where more local businesses can compete and succeed.

Beyond that, I will push to streamline the city's permitting and review processes, which are notoriously slow and unpredictable. Reducing red tape will make it easier for businesses to grow, developers to build much-needed housing, and entrepreneurs to bring investment into our city.

Albuquerque should be a city that rewards innovation and investment—not one that drives it away with costly mandates and bureaucratic delays.

Q11

Regarding the growing homeless situation, what is your plan as a City Councilor to address the needs of this population while better protecting safety of law abiding citizens?

As City Councilor, my approach to addressing homelessness will be both compassionate and results-driven.

First, we need to increase access to transitional and emergency housing that actually helps people move forward. That includes expanding shelter space with services on-site—mental health care, addiction treatment, and workforce training. If we're not addressing the root causes, we're just shuffling people around.

Second, I'll push for accountability and coordination across departments and nonprofits. Right now, there's a lot of money in the system (several hundred million dollars per year) but not enough measurable outcomes. I want to see a results-based funding model—where programs that get people off the streets get prioritized.

Third, we need to enforce our public space laws while offering real help. It's not compassionate to let someone live in a tent next to a school or park. We need to pair enforcement with outreach—so if someone refuses services, we still maintain public safety and quality of life for everyone.

My plan is about balance—compassion for those in crisis, accountability for service providers, and protection for our neighborhoods. We can do all three, and as City Councilor, I'll make sure we do.

Q12

While some say ABQ is immigrant-friendly, in practice it is a 'Sanctuary City'. That designation could cause the loss of some federal funding. Do you support or oppose ABQ's current Sanctuary City Status? Please explain your answer.

Oppose,

Additional Comments::

I have personal experience working with refugees and immigrants. Before starting my job as an engineer, I worked for the International Mission Board (IMB), a Christian outreach and humanitarian organization. The IMB sent me to Bucaramanga, Colombia to work on the front lines of the Venezuelan refugee crisis. I truly have a heart for helping immigrants and refugees in need! However, ABQ's current policies (while well-intentioned) allow violent trans-national, criminal organizations to set up shop in our city. It's a fact that the largest drug busts in American history have happened here in ABQ. We know for a fact that human trafficking is happening in our City. This must stop.

Q13

What measures will you take as Councilor to deal with illegal encampments in the city?

The Bernalillo County Sheriff recently reported that only 2% of homeless individuals are accepting help. This shows that our current approach is not working. We need a “tough love” strategy—one that sets clear boundaries while still offering real opportunities for recovery and stability. That means enforcing laws against illegal camping, drug use, and crime, while at the same time making treatment, shelter, and workforce programs available.

If people consistently refuse help, they cannot be allowed to remain in public spaces where they endanger themselves, businesses, and the community. The city must partner with law enforcement, courts, and service providers to create accountability: connect people to treatment or shelter when possible, but make clear that continued refusal has consequences.

By combining compassion with firm accountability, we can protect our neighborhoods, help businesses thrive, and give people in crisis the best chance of actually turning their lives around.

Q14

Relating to 2nd Amendment rights, do you support or oppose city ordinances or laws that would outlaw high-capacity magazines and/or certain semi-automatic weapons? Please explain your answer.

I oppose city ordinances or laws that would outlaw high-capacity magazines or certain semi-automatic weapons. These types of restrictions infringe on the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens while doing little to address the root causes of crime. Albuquerque’s crime problem is driven by repeat offenders, drug trafficking, and failure to enforce existing laws—not by responsible gun owners.

Instead of punishing law-abiding citizens, we should focus on prosecuting violent criminals, cracking down on illegal firearms trafficking, and giving law enforcement the resources they need to keep our neighborhoods safe. Protecting the Second Amendment goes hand-in-hand with protecting the safety, freedom, and economic vitality of our community.

Q15

Do you support or oppose city mandates regarding employer/employee relations, such as minimum wage, paid time off policies ...etc? Please explain your answer.

Additional Comments::

I oppose city mandates that dictate employer/employee relations, such as minimum wage hikes or paid time off requirements. While well-intentioned, these one-size-fits-all mandates often backfire—raising costs for small businesses, discouraging job growth, and limiting opportunities for entry-level workers. I believe the free market should drive competition and better benefits. When businesses are able to grow and thrive without excessive regulation, they naturally compete for good employees by offering higher wages, better benefits, and more flexibility. Instead of burdening employers with mandates, the City should focus on creating a strong, safe, and vibrant business climate that allows both employers and employees to succeed.

Q16

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

No.

Q17

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

I am running for City Council because I care deeply about Albuquerque—it's where I want to settle down, raise a family, and invest my future. I believe our city has incredible potential, but crime, homelessness, and a lack of housing and economic opportunity are holding us back. I want to be part of the solution that restores hope and growth to our community.

As a Civil Engineer, I bring a unique perspective and skill set to the Council. My profession has trained me to analyze complex problems, manage large projects, and deliver solutions that are both practical and cost-effective. I understand how infrastructure, housing, and development policies shape our city, and I will use that expertise to make decisions that promote safety, growth, and opportunity for all of Albuquerque.

What makes me most qualified is not just my professional experience, but also my commitment to serve this community with integrity, common sense, and a vision for