



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

2021 Albuquerque City Council Candidates Survey

Candidate Name: Rob Grilley

Q2

Political Party Affiliation:

Democrat

Q3

Candidate for what office?

Albuquerque City Council

Q4

District #:

9

Q9

What is your campaign website or other online access so voters can learn more about you and your positions?

<https://www.rob4abq.com/>

Q10

What are your past political activities (Offices held, candidate, volunteer, etc)

I've worked as a volunteer on numerous local, state, and federal elections. Most recently and relevantly I had volunteered with city councilor Pat Davis and now-Secretary Deb Haaland. I worked as staff for Rep. Meredith Dixon during her campaign and then following that I worked as a legislative assistant in Santa Fe assisting with work for the house appropriations and energy committees.

Q11

Why are you seeking this office?

Both the city and my district are experiencing crises. The issues with public safety, homelessness, water and land use, as well as economic and property development are all serious problems but not necessarily difficult ones. We can't afford 4 years of an idle city councilor, we need someone willing to roll up their sleeves and put in the work to try to make our home safer and better; and if elected that's what I plan on doing.

Q12

Have you or your business, if you are a business owner, ever been the subject of any state or federal tax liens? If yes, please explain.

- No

Q13

Have you ever been involved in a personal or business bankruptcy proceeding? If yes, please explain.

No

Q14

Have you ever been arrested, charged, or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony crime in New Mexico or any other state? If yes, please explain.

No

Q15

Do you believe that the crime rate in Albuquerque negatively impacts our ability to attract new businesses and industries to our state?

Yes

Please explain your answer:

The crime rate absolutely has a negative impact on our ability to attract business and industry to our state. One belief that has been expressed recently that has frustrated me incredibly is that businesses here in Albuquerque need to step up and get their employees or management to actively take responsibility for "defending" their business and the patrons who frequent it. This way of thinking is so utterly backwards to me. This isn't the wild west, an expectation of public safety for a business and its customers in our city is not unreasonable and should most certainly be an expectation.

Q16

How would you make the citizens of Albuquerque safer?

By moving away from shotgun-style approaches to public safety that focus on gimmicks or technological toys rather than just recognizing we have a large police officer shortage that needs to be addressed. We need to bring the APD staffing levels back to a place of stability where officers aren't working 20 hour shifts and scrambling to emergency respond to every corner of the city, trying to cover for being so understaffed.

Q17

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

Support

Please explain your answer:

I believe the term "sanctuary city" serves a role as a political tool and little else. The so-called "Sanctuary City" laws in Albuquerque work to allow victims crimes to come forward and report them without fear of reprisal against themselves or their families. They are a critical tool for law enforcement to be able to work with minority communities, and at a time when APD is struggling I am absolutely not going to try to take away one of their resources.

Q18

On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is it that elected leaders become more involved in doing whatever is necessary to have the court ordered Consent Decree covering Albuquerque Police Department ended?

1 (Critical)

Briefly explain your answer:

The Consent Decree exists for a reason, I do not think anyone disputes that. Enormous work has been put in to meet the expectations of the decree and in fact the majority of the mandates have been reached. Over time, however, the Consent Decree has been politicized and tweaked to the point where it now almost undercuts the faith it was put in place to restore. It should be a prime focus of city leadership to do whatever is needed to assist in getting the final mandates resolved, clear the last hurdles, and bring the situation to resolution.

Q19

If the city experiences a budget deficit or a decline in revenue as it has in the recent past, what would you propose to balance the budget or otherwise address declining revenues? The city currently wastes a great deal of its resources, such as water, electricity, and oil/natural gas. I have plans I'd like to see implemented (many that are already in place in other cities in New Mexico) that would work to resolve those inefficiencies and ideal provide more breathing room in the city budget so that we can safely ride future economic waves without drastic cuts or other desperate policies.

Q20

What is your position on government mandates (paid time off, scheduling, minimum wages, etc.) as they apply to businesses?

Support

Please explain your position:

Employee-positive policies attract people to both the city and the state. Since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 banned child labor, and even before, people predict doom should the minimum wage adjust upward or people be granted sick leave, paid time off, etc. The federal minimum wage is now so out of step with the cost of living that states like New Mexico are having to mandate their own minimums to protect their citizens against exploitation. I believe there are many unnecessary and overly burdensome bureaucratic hurdles for businesses here in Albuquerque, but not as relates to the kinds of mandates suggested in this question.

Q21

On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is it that City Councilors thoroughly review ordinances and regulations to determine usefulness in regards to best serving citizens without unnecessarily overburdening business?

1 (critical)

Please explain your answer:

During my time campaigning and speaking with business and property owners, I have seen numerous examples of not only borderline meaningless regulations, but of clear redundancies where the same boxes need to be checked again and again and again rather than having such processes streamlined and shared amongst interested regulatory bodies. I fully support safety standards, fair business standards, etc. however the process of building and then opening a business, and even the process of just opening a business in a rented space is a convoluted bureaucratic mess, with multiple points of failure that aren't adequately explained or sometimes even understandable to potential businesses.

Q22

Do you support or oppose using Albuquerque resident's tax dollars to build a new soccer stadium?

Oppose

Please explain your answer:

It frustrates me greatly that this question has worked its way onto so many questionnaires. I think there are multiple much more critical issues that need to be addressed in the city right now. I do appreciate that rather than forcing the project through, it has been put up as a bond measure and the citizens of Albuquerque can vote on it directly, however a soccer stadium is not one of my planned priorities should I be elected.

Q23

Is there anything else you would like to share about your candidacy or your desire to serve the people of your district?

From the moment I stepped into this race my motto and the motto of my team has been that dedication and sincere hard work will win out. I am proud to be not only a publicly financed candidate, but the publicly financed with the lowest rejection rate for signatures and contributions across all city races. I am not receiving private money from special interests, nor am I being buoyed into this city council seat by the party I'm registered with. I don't have a business to promote, I have no development or real estate interests to advance, and I have no hidden agendas I'm hoping I won't be asked about. I'm running because this is my home. I love it here, I love my friends and family here, my neighbors and my coworkers here; that's why I want here to be the best place it can be.