



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

2021 Las Cruces City Council Candidates Survey

Candidate Name: David A Telford

Q2

Political Party Affiliation:

Democrat

Q3

Candidate for what office?

Las Cruces City Council

Q4

District #:

5

Q9

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

Telford for District 5

Q10

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

I've not held political office. I have been on or chaired many boards/committees in the 40 years I've lived in Las Cruces. Including, but not limited to: SNM March of Dimes, Whole Enchilada Fiesta, City 4th of July Committee, ChildSafe/Ninos Seguros, City of Las Cruces Health and Human Resources Advisory Committee

Q11

Why are you seeking this office?

To continue my service to this city that has given me so much. I come from a background of servant leadership. My parents hard work and community volunteerism has been and inspiration to me. I want to make sure Las Cruces continues to be the kind of place where a family can get their education and find good jobs to be able to live here as my family has. My wife and I both got our college degrees here and have had successful careers here. Our two daughters have gotten their degrees here and both work in healthcare here. Our son is just finishing his computer engineering here and already has many job offers here.

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 Las Cruces negatively impacts the ability to attract new businesses and industries to our state?

No

Please explain your answer:

I my 30 years of experience working with businesses in Las Cruces I've listened to their challenges every day. While there has been some talk about crime being a problem from time to time, it hasn't been a prevailing issue.

Q16

How would you make the citizens of Las Cruces safer?

Help the Police. Expand on the Police service Aide Program. Work with Citizen Review Board. Public/Private partnerships to help hire and retain officers to get our Police Force back up to strength

Q17

What is your position on Las Cruces being a 'Sanctuary City'?

Oppose

Please explain your answer:

I believe we need to be compassionate to all human beings but we are not a rich city. We need to care for our own first. We need to help our homeless and near homeless first, not to mention our many families and children living at poverty level

Q18

If the city experiences a budget deficit or a decline in revenue as it has in the past, what would you propose to balance the budget or otherwise address declining revenues?

Reasearch and do internal audits to find where the city can trim budgets. Use other funds the city has in reserve such as the Telshor Fund

Q19

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I think the market should dictate those things. The business economy will adjust as needed and when possible provide those things. If they are mandated it could cause businesses to close and nobody would get any of those benefits.

Q20

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:

Absolutely necessary! I think many of said ordinances that do overburden businesses are things that citizens would not even notice but may cause a business to move to a more business-friendly place. I understand we do need codes oversight for safety purposes but I think, based on my years of working with businesses it can be more streamlined/simplified to help all concerned.

Q21

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

As you can see, I am business friendly but not at the cost of quality of life for our citizens. I think a healthy business community increases our quality of life. It provides for more products and services for the improvement of our lives and the taxes they pay help build our infrastructure improve our city.