



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

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Q1

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

Louie Sanchez

Q2

In what quadrant of Albuquerque do you reside?

NW

Q3

How long have you lived in Albuquerque?

Entire life

Q4

Email address

candidate@louie4qbq.com

Q5

Phone number for voters to reach you.

505-506-7864

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website

www.louie4abq.com

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?

Currently as a City Councilor, I am working to streamline the entire permitting process by bringing all departments involved in economic development under a single, coordinated strategy. We currently have monthly meetings with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority, Planning, NAIOP and developers to streamline the process. We have put together a checklist to keep everyone needing the system in the lane they need to be in, based on their needs. From day one, I'll continue to lead a citywide push to eliminate unnecessary red tape and create a faster, more predictable pathway for new and growing businesses. Making Albuquerque a business-friendly city isn't just a goal — it's a top priority, and I'm committed to delivering real change that supports entrepreneurs, job creation, and long-term economic growth. Here are a few priority items:

Implement a One-Stop Business Portal: As a small business owner and a current City Councilor, I know how frustrating it is to navigate Albuquerque's disconnected city systems. Our small businesses don't have time to battle bureaucracy—they need a centralized, easy-to-use portal or checklist that provides real-time access to permits, resources, and support. As Mayor, I'll modernize how the city serves entrepreneurs by creating a unified platform that's efficient, transparent, and tailored to the needs of small and microbusinesses. With better data tracking, live support, and clear guidance, we'll turn city government into a true partner for business growth—because making Albuquerque more business-friendly benefits all of us.

Cut Red Tape: I hear from developers and small business owners every week about delayed permits that cost time, money, and trust. We must cut the red tape by streamlining approvals, hiring experienced inspectors, and setting clear, transparent timelines. Small businesses deserve the same level of support and urgency we give to major companies. As Mayor, I'll make permitting faster, fairer, and more predictable—because when we help local businesses grow, we create jobs, strengthen neighborhoods, and build a more vibrant Albuquerque for all.

Set Clear Timelines and Accountability: I've seen how unpredictable timelines can frustrate businesses. Every permit process should come with a clear, department-driven timeline based on real capacity. Setting expectations and holding departments accountable is key. We'll explore automatic approvals when deadlines are missed and use data reviews to make sure delays are addressed. Simple tools like website graphics, signage, and staff training will make the process more transparent and easier to navigate—for both the public and city employees. We will make sure phone numbers are available and phones are answered. Directors and Deputy Directors will be held accountable to the public for answering questions and moving the process forward.

Create a Business Concierge Team: As Mayor, one of my top priorities will be transforming the current Small Business Office into a modern, high-impact Innovation and Business Resource Center. Originally intended to help business owners navigate city services, this office must be reimaged to meet today's needs with clarity, accessibility, and efficiency. This center should treat every business, whether it's a food truck, retail shop, or tech startup, with the same level of importance and support as any significant economic development project. This new center will be staffed by experienced, bilingual business advisors who understand the challenges entrepreneurs face and are committed to helping them succeed. We will leverage technology to create a true one-stop shop, streamlining access to resources, cutting red tape, and accelerating business growth. It will also offer tailored services like procurement readiness, business permitting assistance, and connections to financial tools. This is about more than renaming an office, it's about building a culture of service, innovation, and economic opportunity for Albuquerque's future. By positioning our small businesses as vital engines of job creation and neighborhood revitalization, we can fuel inclusive, long-term prosperity for Albuquerque.

Modernize Technology and Staff Training: One area where the city needs to see substantial improvement is in its ability to collect and interpret data. Staying competitive and even setting standards for cities our size will happen if we modernize our systems, software, collection of data, and use of AI technology in training our city employees to be the best customer service agents with knowledge of all the resources the city has to offer. The basics of customer service will be a top priority along with the passion for economic development, small business growth and setting the foundation for the city to thrive for generations to come. We give the city employees the ability to participate in the streamlining of the processes since they know it better than anyone.

Engage with the Business Community: As a small business owner, I understand the value of staying connected to our local business community. Listening directly to business owners—through business fairs, forums, and peer-led panels—is essential to understanding their challenges and identifying real solutions. By fostering these conversations, we can lead a grassroots movement to rebuild and grow what was lost in the wake of the pandemic. Currently, the city has nearly 60 boards and commissions, but only one dedicated to small business—and it represents just two of our nine council districts. That's not good enough. As Mayor, I will prioritize restructuring

this board to ensure all districts have a seat at the table, and its mission is aligned with the needs of today's entrepreneurs. Additionally, I will host monthly roundtables with local business owners—not just to address concerns, but to recognize successes and build a city government that works hand-in-hand with the business community. Together, we'll create a stronger economy for Albuquerque.

Engage and help more business start ups along the central corridor, currently we have a massive drug and homeless population along the Central corridor and too many closed businesses. We need to work on enforcement of all laws in the books along central and replace the drugs and unhoused with thriving businesses. Currently I have the City exploring the Idea for either removing the ART project based on the fact that it has caused a negative impact on our city to forgive clawback and or open up ART for more left hand turns which will bring back our Rout 66 to welcome our centennial celebration of the Mother Road. This is urgent and will be an immediate priority day one

By making it easier to start and grow a business in Albuquerque, we can replace “closed” signs with “open” ones, light up our storefronts, create good-paying jobs, revitalize our neighborhoods, and build a stronger, more resilient local economy. As Mayor, that will be a central part of my vision for Albuquerque's future.

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?

Please Explain:

While the intention may be to offer temporary relief, the reality is that these encampments often become long-term and do little to address the root causes of homelessness. We cannot enable a system that normalizes life on the streets—it's neither compassionate, Humane nor sustainable for individuals or our communities. Instead, we need real, results-driven solutions that treat homelessness and addiction with urgency and dignity with a humane approach. That means investing in transitional housing with built-in access to mental health services, addiction recovery, job training, Job connect and wraparound support. We must also create clear pathways out of homelessness through accountability, outreach, and partnerships with faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and public health experts. We will also need directed programs placed by the courts after incarceration to move people to recovery who want help or need a push to get it. On City Council I put guardrails in place to protect the operations and comprehensive rules and regulations governing Safe Outdoor Spaces (SOS). Our city deserves clean, safe public spaces—and our unhoused neighbors deserve a path to stability, not a sidewalk. As Mayor, I'll prioritize bold, innovative strategies that reduce street homelessness and restore safety, health, and opportunity for all of Albuquerque. Addiction is incredibly difficult to overcome—especially when drug traffickers threaten your life to keep you addicted and working for them. We must confront the drug cartels that have a stranglehold on our city. These criminal organizations are exploiting and endangering our unhoused population, growing their operations because past administrations have turned a blind eye. I will not ignore the massive drug crisis in Albuquerque. I will confront it head-on, with determination and urgency.

Q9

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

Illegal encampments are not a long-term solution—for the unhoused or for our CITY neighborhoods. We must be clear: living in unsafe, unsanitary conditions on sidewalks, in parks, or near schools is not compassionate, and it's not acceptable or humane. But enforcement alone is not the answer. We need a plan that balances accountability with real pathways to stability.

As a 26-year retired acting commander in APD, I have never seen such a huge homelessness crisis with its root cause being drug use, addiction and trafficking of fentanyl which keeps people from wanting help or willing to help themselves, the drug dealers control most encampments through fear and intimidation. As Mayor, I will implement a plan to address illegal activity in and around encampments humanely, effectively which will lead to helping those who can now ask for help without threat.

1. **Coordinated Outreach & Engagement:** Deploy trained outreach teams including social workers and behavioral health professionals, to engage individuals in encampments daily, offering services, shelter options, and personalized plans for recovery and stability. Setting the standard that living on the street is not an option.
 2. **Immediate Access to Transitional Housing:** Expand access to clean, safe, low-barrier transitional housing connected to support services like job placement, mental health care, and addiction recovery. Other cities around the country have great models, for example, 72-hour addiction detox and 72-hour mental evaluation holds. During these hours, the city engagement teams will look to notify possible family members, help those that choose to return to their home state and directed services after incarceration provide additional long-term support to facilitate other options than living on the street.
 3. **Strengthen Encampment Response Teams:** Establish a trained dedicated, city-led encampment response team that works in coordination with outreach staff and coordinated city non-profits to clean up sites swiftly and compassionately, ensuring those offered services are not left behind. Following up with resources that the homeless may not know exist, or offering opportunities to get back home to their loved ones will be another tool to begin to clear the neighborhoods and streets.
 4. **Zero-Tolerance Zones: Tourist Zones, Near Schools, Parks, and Businesses:** For the city to have a targeted focus on economic dollars that are raised through tourism, we will need to implement zero-tolerance zones such as downtown, historical sites, community neighborhoods like Nob Hill and Old town. We will need to protect public spaces with clearly designated no-camping zones and firm, consistent enforcement. Additionally, areas around schools, childcare centers, parks, and small businesses will also be included in these zones.
 5. **Accountability Through Diversion Programs:** Partnering with courts to create diversion programs that hold individuals accountable while connecting them to treatment, housing, and job-readiness resources. Understanding that enabling them to live on the street does not allow for them to become a productive and contributing members of our city.
 6. **Invest in Long-Term Solutions:** Prioritize permanent supportive housing development, workforce solutions, and regional partnerships to address root causes and reduce the inflow of homelessness across the city.
- We can't ignore this crisis, and we can't enable it to grow. My plan is rooted in compassion and accountability because Albuquerque deserves safe streets, and every resident deserves a path to dignity and opportunity.
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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?

Please explain::

Homelessness is a problem that has overtaken the city and affects all our neighborhoods. So, this initiative would have to be partially funded by the city, state and federal entities.. Programs that effectively reduce homelessness and improve public safety and quality of life will be priority. Pointing out that getting the homelessness problem under control is not forever, but initially it would have to be funded. But that support comes with a strong commitment to accountability, transparency, and results. Currently we have no accountability on programs that are in place. The good programs point out the bad programs who are funded the same as good programs but are not producing results. We need to audit the trending programs that have fancy names and are only in it for the money and replace them with solid programs that can prove results. This is tax payer money and we need to take care of it. The ultimate goal will be to have a home of their own and a job to pay for their lively hood. I would prioritize funding for the following types of programs: Transitional and Supportive Housing: Programs that provide stable housing with wraparound services like mental health care, job training, and addiction treatment have been proven to reduce chronic homelessness in other cities that have been able to clean up their streets. Emergency Shelters: Shelters and safe locations for people to go that are open 24/7, allow pets and partners. But these shelters would require sobriety, evaluations, and other surveys to hold the person accountable for the next step. Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment: A sizable percentage of people experiencing homelessness are also dealing with addiction and behavioral health issues. Expanding access to treatment is essential for long-term recovery and mental health care. Street Outreach and Navigation Services: Outreach teams are often the first point of contact for people living on the streets. Teams trained in trauma-informed care who can build trust, connect individuals to services, and help them navigate the system will be part of the program. Prevention Programs: It's more cost-effective to keep people housed than to help them after they become homeless. I support rental assistance programs, and other programs that help people transition out of institutions without ending up on the streets. Every dollar we spend should be tied to measurable outcomes. I will ensure that taxpayer investments are targeted, tracked, and continuously evaluated and audited so we're funding what works—not just what feels good.

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?

Please explain::

As mayor, my priority will always be to protect the safety and well-being of Albuquerque residents. I will cooperate with federal agencies when it comes to individuals who are in the country illegally and who pose a clear threat to public safety, such as those involved in violent crime, drug and human trafficking, or gang activity. However, I do not support broad, indiscriminate immigration enforcement actions that target law-abiding members of our immigrant communities or sow fear among families. Local law enforcement should focus on local crime, not act as an arm of a federal department. In my 26 years of policing, we never arrested on anything other than the crime being committed. There were federal agencies that held offices within our jails and departments to do the work for the federal agencies. That would be something I would consider advocating for. (not sure about this last sentence) We will maintain clear protocols to ensure due process and to distinguish between serious criminal threats and those who are simply trying to build a better life. Community trust in public safety institutions is critical, and we will not erode that trust. Public safety and human dignity can and must go hand in hand.

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?

I will not have to worry about firing the current police chief, he already knows he is not welcome. He has shown his troops that it is ok to have double standards as a chief and have a strict standard for his rank and file which he has proven over and over. The Mayor is the police chief and this mayor has failed you when it comes to Law Enforcement. My priority is to RESTORE PUBLIC TRUST in our police department. The word is out across the country, "Who wants to work for APD when the Mayor and his Chief have double standards" the answer is "NOT ME". That is the true reason we are having a more difficult time hiring officers.

To effectively address Albuquerque's crime crisis, we must reevaluate the current police department to allow officers to do their job and to be given the tools, discretion and resources they need to combat crime and earn the trust of the public by enforcing all laws on the books. Discretion has been removed by this administration. The citizens trust of the Albuquerque Police Department must be restored and will be restored. The first priority will be to attack the criminal drug gangs and the fentanyl crisis. Currently APD leadership has alienated itself from other local Law Enforcement Agencies breaking Community Law Enforcement engagement, shown on recent Law Enforcement endeavors leaving APD out. Immediate re engagement in multi agency cooperation will be restored and used to protect our community. Field Service, or officers in marked patrol units are the backbone to all police departments except APD. APD proves over and over by not currently being able to provide the services that the community expects and deserves. Field Services Officers wearing professional uniforms will be a standard and will be the best paid and most rewarding positions. We will make sure to build the Field Services to have the respect they deserve and ability to serve above and beyond the call of duty.

1. Rebrand the police department: rebranding the department to include a new mission, vision and values, officer's oath, logo, colors, and new name. What the department has lost is the trust and respect of the community. A fresh reset allows officers to regain their passion for the job and the community to establish added support for our men and women who protect our streets daily.
2. New Organizational Chart: Along with a rebrand, a new alignment of top brass, management and putting more officers into the field will be day one priority. While working with a new strategy for the department and interim management to be able to make the necessary changes before, we do a nationwide search for the next qualified police chief.
3. Fully staff the department: With the help of strong marketing, develop a strategic plan for recruiting new officers to the department. Although this may have to be a long-term plan as the department is severely understaffed, seasoned officers will be the key to training and support of a new department.
4. Retain Officers: Developing an aggressive retention program by offering qualified, eager, and passionate officers competitive pay, mental health support, and a modernized work environment including the latest software and technology will be an immediate improvement to support those officers who are willing to stay a little longer with the department. There will be a transition period while recruiting is taking place. Nothing can replace the experience of a seasoned officer.
5. Invest in Targeted, Data-Driven Policing: In today's world, the use of data to track areas of improvements, pain points and programs within the department will be implemented to enhance public safety. Analytics and AI are essentials in the strategy of the department. Data does not lie. It allows for educated decisions and forecasting for changes and improvements in the police departments that the public will have high expectations of.
6. Ensure Accountability and Transparency: Creating a police department that feels empowered will not be an easy task, but through accountability and transparency within the department and to the public, it can be achieved. Officers must hold themselves to the highest standards and to help them feel empowered the department will invest in training at all levels to ensure that officers are able to do their jobs without their hands tied behind their backs. This in turn will allow transparency and accountability. Albuquerque deserves a police department that is professional, responsive, and that our community is proud of. I will lead with both urgency and balance to restore safety and trust in our police department.

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?

No business should ever feel discouraged from calling the police when a crime occurs. If our policies are making law-abiding business owners afraid to seek help, then those policies are failing and must be reformed.

As mayor, I will take the following steps to ensure businesses receive the protection they deserve:

Reform the Nuisance Property Ordinance: We will revise the ordinance so that repeated calls for police service due to external criminal activity do not penalize businesses that are victims not perpetrators of crime. A business doing the right thing should not be treated like a problem.

Clarify Enforcement Guidelines: I will direct the city to issue clear, public guidelines that distinguish between nuisance activity and legitimate calls for help. Officers and property owners alike need to know where the lines are drawn.

Support for Business Safety Plans: I'll establish a partnership program where businesses in high-crime areas can work proactively with police and city departments to create safety plans, access resources, and prevent crime without fear of being labeled nuisances.

Boost Patrols in Commercial Corridors: By increasing foot and vehicle patrols in high-traffic business zones, we can deter criminal activity and reduce the need for repeated 911 calls in the first place.

Listen to the Business Community: I will regularly meet with local business leaders to understand their safety concerns and adjust city policy to support and not punish those trying to keep their doors open and their customers safe. Public safety is a partnership, and businesses are on the front lines. I'll make sure they're treated as partners not liabilities.

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?

Please explain::

Any Reasonable person who watches the video of Medina's crash with him almost killing an innocent citizen can see that something is not right. An honest Chief would have himself called for an independent outside investigation to hold himself accountable and set an example to his troops of true accountability and transparency, instead he set a double standard that has continued to undermine the trust our community has for their police department. This is a disgusting example of leadership and mayor Keller condoned this by inferring that his Chief is the victim putting himself and his chief above the law and above the citizens of Albuquerque. Absolutely not. I will not retain Chief Medina. Public trust in law enforcement begins at the top. The recent controversy involving Chief Medina, combined with ongoing concerns about integrity within APD's leadership, raises serious questions about accountability, transparency and culture inside the department. If elected, the current chief will be fired and he already knows he is not welcome in my administration since I called for him to be fired and a vote of no confidence. That also goes for his administrative staff. . T new leadership is necessary to move the department forward and restore public confidence and morale with the rank and file. Currently they have been intimidated and are even afraid to sign a petition for me even if they are off duty for fear of retaliation. I will not hesitate to make a change anytime integrity and transparency to the public are at stake. At the same time, the anticipated end of the DOJ consent decree is a major turning point for APD. Mayor Keller held 29 completed paragraphs for 2 years since 2019, during covid.. I ordered City Attorneys to release them to the public. Of course Keller took credit, but him hiding the completion of these paragraphs was dishonesty to the citizens he is supposed to be protecting. We must ensure that what comes next is not a step backward, but a step toward lasting, self-sustained reform and professional policing. That requires leadership that is transparent, accountable, and focused on both safety and integrity. We need to develop a culture with a spirit of excellence where each APD employee is valued and will hold themselves and each other accountable to the citizens they serve. Keller also turned down 10 million in funding from the federal government, a grant without a match to hire up to 25 officers, just because it was from the Trump administration at the time. The BCSO took the grants. The president at this time made a public comment that Chicago and Albuquerque refused fed money. The people of Albuquerque deserve a police department and a police chief they can trust. I'll make sure we get there.

Q15

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

Open drug use and street-level dealing are unacceptable and they're contributing to crime, addiction, and a breakdown of public order in too many parts of Albuquerque which is also contributing to homelessness. Broken window theory, if you let even minor crimes go unchecked, it will carry on and get worse. As mayor, I will take a tough, targeted, and smart approach to address this crisis. We need to enforce laws at the lowest level which has not happened in 12 yrs. We have a saying in law enforcement you can beat the rap but you cant beat the ride, Also, charges keep building and mandated treatment needs to be implemented as part of the process. The Mayor will say that crime is down. The reality is that citizens are not calling the police because they are so used to officers not showing up so they decide not to call. City wide problem response team, as well as ongoing support for the area commands. We need to hire more officers and give them the tools to be proactive. APD has 900 officers and only 250 on the streets. We will weed out the non essential positions at APD and have every officer and detective in uniform enforcing the law, even higher ranking officers will be tasked with law enforcement duties.

Crack Down on Open-Air Drug Markets: We will deploy focused enforcement in known hotspots using a combination of undercover operations, surveillance, and neighborhood-based policing. Enforcing all laws on the books.

Create High-Visibility Enforcement Zones: In areas with persistent drug activity we will increase uniformed patrols, clean-up efforts with other departments, and coordination with businesses and residents to disrupt criminal activity and restore a sense of safety. Cameras, signs and kiosks

Hold Repeat Offenders Accountable: We will work with the courts and district attorney's office to ensure repeat drug dealers face real consequences, not endless cycles of catch-and-release through proper investigations and evidence.

Support Specialized Drug Courts and Diversion Programs: For nonviolent users, I support alternatives to jail that focus on recovery and accountability. But when treatment is offered and refused repeatedly, we must be prepared to take stronger steps to protect public spaces.

Require tact plans and problem originated policing projects.

This is about restoring order and offering hope. Albuquerque can't function if the streets are overrun with drug use and dealing. Under my leadership, we'll get control of this issue and take back our neighborhoods.

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.

Please explain::

If elected, I would reduce Albuquerque's top-heavy bureaucracy while expanding frontline services that directly impact residents' quality of life and business owners' ability to grow. Too much of our city government is weighed down by administrative layers and inefficiency. I will streamline management structures, eliminate redundant positions, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are going toward results not bureaucracy. However, I will invest in technology, software and hardware where necessary, AI training to make systems and tasks less time consuming, and "boots on the ground" roles like police officers, EMTs, road crews, housing outreach workers, and inspectors because these are the people who actually keep our city running, safe, and clean. This approach isn't about shrinking or growing government for its own sake it's about making government work better so our citizens get the service they pay for. That means putting more resources into neighborhoods and less into the back office. We need a city government that is lean, responsive, and focused on service not titles and layers of paperwork.

Q17

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

Improving Albuquerque's infrastructure is a top concern for residents and businesses alike who are frustrated by potholes, crumbling roads, outdated drainage systems, and traffic congestion. I will begin by developing a strategic plan to begin city infrastructure cleanup to include. We need to work with state legislatures, our congressional delegation to prioritize state and federal dollars and grants to fix roads. Prioritize oldest first and continue this process until all roads are repaired. Make this part of our continuing request.

Launch a Citywide Road Repair Blitz: A data-driven audit to identify the worst roads and prioritize repairs based on traffic volume, safety concerns, age and community feedback. Citizens must be part of these decisions. This means faster fixes in the areas people use most, with timelines and vendor accountability.

Expand Preventative Maintenance: We will invest in preventative resurfacing and sealing, saving money overtime and extending the life of our streets. We will also maintain regular maintenance on high traffic areas.

Modernize Traffic Infrastructure: Upgrade traffic signals, improve pedestrian crosswalks, and enhance lighting and signage, especially in high-accident areas. We'll also improve ADA accessibility and bike lane safety with proper signage and community awareness campaigns.

Invest in Drainage and Utilities: Infrastructure means more than roads. We will work to modernize outdated storm drainage and underground utilities that are prone to failure or flooding, especially during monsoon season, which will also help with early and regular maintenance.

Secure Funding Through Multiple Sources:

Leverage federal infrastructure grants and state partnerships

Utilize bond financing for long-term capital improvements

Improve efficiency and transparency in city contracts to avoid delays and cost overruns

Inspect the work to make sure contractors are held to the highest standards, currently there is no accountability for badly resurfaced roads

Create a Public Infrastructure Dashboard: Residents should be able to see what projects are planned, underway, and completed along with timelines and budgets. Transparency builds trust.

Fixing our infrastructure is about safety, economic development, and quality of life. We will set realistic timelines based on capacity and make sure we are transparent with our constituents.