

## **MICHELLE GARCIA HOLMES PLAN FOR THE ECONOMY**

Reduction of crime and job creation will be job one. Albuquerque is in the middle of the crime wave that is destroying our City. Crime directly affects our business community and tourism. My priority as Mayor is to attack crime aggressively. I will solve this problem, I have working knowledge of how and why crimes are committed. I will use my 28 years of experience in law enforcement to find solutions to the many failures in our justice system. We need to make Albuquerque a safe city so businesses and tourism can prosper.

We are in the midst of a crime wave. Crime is destroying our City and making it a dangerous place to live. Albuquerque is not thriving. Small businesses and large businesses are starting to move away taking with them our jobs, our future and our children's future. My economic development plan simply will not happen if we continue to be a crime riddled and drug-infested dangerous city.

I will bring in a new Director of Economic Development and change the way Albuquerque presents and markets itself to new businesses seeking to establish in Albuquerque. My new economic development director will review Albuquerque's demographics. I believe we can support businesses like technology, healthcare, and manufacturing.

Albuquerque is also a beautiful place to visit, live and retire. We should nurture communities and housing developments to service this demographic. Tourism is of great importance to a city economy. I will promote national and international tourism for Albuquerque and work to increase visitor spending. When tourism thrives, retail businesses thrive.

Tourism is one of our number one industries and one of our largest employers. However, if we don't get our crime issue under control it will become a non-existent industry. Studies show people want to travel to safe cities.

### **Building a strong Economy**

We will build a strong economy by making it easier to start and grow a business, Albuquerque needs to be a business-friendly city. We must be more business friendly and should discourage job killing legislation and regulations, which will cost businesses more money to operate. I oppose the sick leave ordinance and attended the last court hearing before it went to the supreme court, this ordinance is a job killer.

We need a marketing outline for all new business outreach that tells every new business exact incentives they will receive when relocating here. We also need the same for existing businesses, so they know how the city and their business can collaborate to help them grow.

Continually working on our crime problem is also key. We can't let our small businesses be forced to close by constant auto thefts, robberies and burglaries.

We must make Albuquerque a destination for tourism and develop new national events similar to the already successful Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and Gathering of Nations.

We need to make Albuquerque the number one place nationally to retire by promoting our exceptional weather and friendly culture. We need to work closely with Sandia National Labs and the Air Force Research Lab to create new supply lines that local businesses can access.

Albuquerque can become a nationally-known location for tech startups and tech job innovation if we continue to support the existing technology hub and technology growth incubators.

We must ensure our national laboratory discoveries stay here for local job creation, if they successfully transition into the private sector that could mean hundreds of new jobs for Albuquerque.

I will encourage the University of New Mexico to incorporate more technology and Innovation courses. We are doing a great job bridging from new tech and medical discoveries to entrepreneurial startups, but we can do better and be even more supportive. We need to keep our new business startups in Albuquerque.

I want to promote and encourage development in our communities. The more development, the more potential to generate revenue to improve basic services to citizens. However, we still need to make sure that all development is done in a safe manner which does not threaten the health, safety and welfare of the public. We need to take a good long look at our regulations and make sure that they're working the way they were intended and working to help Albuquerque grow in a way that benefits our city. We also have to look at traffic issues and land development, ensuring we don't have growth just because we have land.

### **Increment of One**

First: I want businesses to have an environment that will foster new local job growth and be fertile ground to create new businesses and entice companies that want to relocate to this beautiful Rio Grande Valley. We need to focus again on the increment of one in our City for existing businesses to grow at least one job per business and especially in those top 10 industries and stop regulation that is keeping this from happening. I also support alternative businesses, individuals who work at home, that are not our 9-5 brick and mortar.

### **Small Business Summit**

Second: In the first 90 days in office I will be holding a Small Business Summit. This will be a working summit to walk away with real action plans that can be implemented during my time as Albuquerque's Mayor. I will be bringing our educational institutions and business community together.

There is a disconnect in Albuquerque with teens and young adults regarding employment. We have many teens who are neither working or in school. These numbers affect our unemployment rates. The problem becomes more acute after young people have graduated from high school. We are not providing our businesses with an educated workforce. We must

have more collaboration with our educational facilities keeping in mind what the needs are of our business community.

We have to remember that in 2014 we had 10,000 applicants for just 150 jobs at the Coronado Center Cheesecake Factory. Our citizens want to work. They're willing to work they just need jobs. Many will take any job that is offered.

### Strong Collaboration With Our Chambers, Global Chamber, Hispano Chamber, GA Chamber

Part of my Small Business Summit will involve our Chambers. The next mayor needs to delve more into finding out what are the "Top 10 Growing Industries" and look at what we have here in our City to support. We also need to be a more diverse job market so we are not so dependent on government jobs. It's obvious that Albuquerque can become stronger in the fields of technology, manufacturing, and healthcare which are leaders in growing industries. Strength in our chambers will bring more of these types of businesses to our city. UNM-STC had twelve new patents approved that start-up entrepreneurs created last year. Eight of these startups left before they even attempted to launch a company in Albuquerque

As Mayor, I always want us to think out of the box. I will bring new leadership in the Economic Development Department that will completely change how Albuquerque will market and promote itself. We have to be aggressive and hard-working to keep our existing businesses while simultaneously attract new ones. We have to quit giving our local contracts away to out-of-state companies. We have companies that we can create to supply these requests. We have to acquire larger portions of Sandia Labs supply line and foster new tech company spin offs.

We have tremendous opportunities being a city with a transportation crossroads, we have the ability to export and import easily and have a great tax structure for businesses in this industry. This opens the door to work with our Global Chamber, already collaborating with countries like China and Mexico.

### Tax, Zoning & Regulation Reform

Third: We must have a mentality of support when it comes to working with our small business community. I will not support the proposed sick leave ordinance as it is a job killer for Albuquerque. Several of the mayoral candidates agree that the ordinance has devastating consequences, but they will be supporting it anyway. We must break away from partisan politics as usual in Albuquerque. We also need to examine and modify our tax structure for businesses. Our local job market is so fragile and struggling we must be careful not to add on more burdens, laws and costs for our local job providers. I want as many jobs created in Albuquerque as there are unemployed citizens needing and searching for employment. Every

job counts and I will work hard to make Albuquerque more business friendly so that our families can thrive.

### **Workforce issues**

We need to work with the education institutions in our City, starting with mid school, high school and colleges (both trade and universities). We need to continually work with our school systems to collaborate and be sure the schools are teaching according to the growth needs in our Nation and most of all in our City to support job growth. We need to work on programs to keep our youth that is disconnected from the job market to wanting to learn, and knowing what opportunities lie ahead for them in the future, and support these trainings to keep our youth in our school systems and job markets. Next, our City needs to work with the businesses to develop intern programs with high school students to get them interested in the growing fields. We need to focus again on the increment of one in our City for existing businesses to grow at least one job per business and especially in those top 10 industries.

We need to strive for opportunities on how to keep our youth engaged in our community and away from gangs and drugs. Their choices are limited when our youth get involved in these two areas. They need the opportunity to grow, learn and thrive in our city.

I will encourage our partners in education to work on being better at structuring courses to our business needs, we have a tech and national lab that need a workforce.

I will work with our labs, government and existing businesses on summer intern programs that will help our young people decide what career fields they want to work in, we had a very productive intern program at the New Mexico Attorney General's Office.

We should also recognize that not all high school graduates will attend a university. We need more educational opportunities in the area of the trades industry as well. I will encourage the business community to offer internships to help our youth make decisions on career fields.

I will be a mayor that supports our small business community. If we help small businesses grow and add jobs by making it easier and more profitable to expand here in Albuquerque, we will have an opportunity for a thriving job market. Every job counts in times like these.

### **Big money in campaigns has influence on who does**

### **business with the city – CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

While Chief of Staff for the New Mexico Attorney General's Office we submitted a campaign finance reform bill every year. I will work on campaign finance reform because it effects our economy.

Campaign contributions are a big problem for candidates and they have a direct influence on how our government works and whom our government works with. I am running as an independent and will work with all parties, all people and all businesses that are working for the greater good of our city.

As the Chief of Staff for the New Mexico Attorney General's office, I worked on the creation of the first Government Corruption Division, we must stop back room deals, pay to play, and bid rigging, generated by lack of appropriate campaign finance reform.

### **Conclusion**

I would like to see Albuquerque become a retirement and tourist destination and be the best place to raise a family in the entire nation. Providing businesses with a safe environment enables them to thrive.

Growing an educated workforce, increasing tourism and marketing Albuquerque as a place to retire will stabilize our stagnant economy. We have the weather and the healthcare already needed to accommodate retirees and young families. Retirees come with their own revenue and don't require new job markets. We have to quit watching the bad statistics come in and start working to end this stagnation. A Safe City will be a Prosperous City.