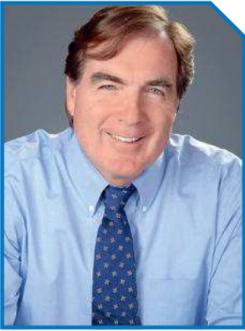




# 2015 VOTERS GUIDE

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES

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### City Council District 2 Gregory "Greg" Z. Smith

1. Since the beginning of this debate, my position has remained consistent: if Las Cruces should have its own minimum wage, that minimum wage must be specific and appropriate for Las Cruces. We have unique conditions and economies here; imposing a municipal minimum wage requires very careful accumulation of data and truly responsible consideration. Encouraging sustainable living wages for all while supporting our local small and independent employers has been central and key to my position.
2. While the City of Las Cruces has good and sufficient access to aquifers for our community's current and anticipated needs, we must always monitor our use of this precious resource. Longer term, we must have laws, agreements, and compacts which respect all parties, those with old water rights, those with newer ones, those on one side of one border or boundary, those on another, and those of future generations who will thrive and prosper here.
3. The potential for fairer elections and more qualified candidates is the main reason I have supported our investigation into the public financing of municipal elections. Because "the devil is in the details" and unintended consequences must be anticipated and eliminated if possible, I have not yet supported a specific program. I am also very interested in seeing information indicating if public financing has had the desired results in cities such as Santa Fe and Albuquerque.
4. Since first being elected to the City Council, I have maintained that, to whatever degree possible, the City of Las Cruces should be on the side of respecting the expectations of the property owners adjacent to the former fairways. However, the City has only limited authority to require certain outcomes being as the property has never been City owned. Fortunately, a solid majority of adjacent property owners appear to be happy with the planned development.



### City Council District 2 Philip VanVeen

1. Minimum wage. I agree that minimum wage employees are in need of an increase. I do not feel that a localized minimum wage increase is the best way to go. I would prefer to work towards a better solution that will not result in localized inflation. I have some ideas that I would like to discuss with area employees and employers alike. Together we can come up with a better solution to this problem.
2. Water Shortage. Water is our most precious resource. I believe it is important to continue with programs that teach water conservation for residents and businesses alike. Low flow showers, toilets, and other such fixtures should always be encouraged and promoted. We can all do our part by being aware of our consumption habits and maintaining our properties.
3. Public Finance. Our tax dollars should be used in a responsible way. Paying for someone to run for public office is not a responsible use of our tax dollars. Candidates should be willing and able to raise their own funds to run. I do believe we should cap donation amounts and the total amount a candidate can spend in order to level the playing field for all who wish to run for public office.
4. Country Club Property. I would have liked to see a larger park in our City. After reviewing the plans, I think the current development idea is a nice alternative. It will include residential, commercial, restaurants, walking trails, open green spaces, and medical facilities. The trails will also connect to our City's main hike and bike trail along Triviz. This will be our first functional walking neighborhood in Las Cruces.



### City Council District 4 Richard A. Hall

1. Minimum wage is an important part of the economy, if it is raised by too large of a percentage and/or too quickly of a pace, the intended goals of helping all populations receiving that wage will actually be negatively affected. Forcing the hand of business without market research does not mean an increase will result in the desired outcome.
2. Water shortages in Doña Ana County is a very important issue. We have many industries who's reliance on water is of the utmost importance including agriculture, ranchers manufacturing and landscaping. Everyone needs water. The city should do all it can to address the water needs of all who are under its jurisdiction.
3. Since the only source for revenue to any municipality is taxes, impact fees, and utilities, the public finances any endeavor taken on by the city whether it is elections, infrastructure, improvements, or building a new City Hall whether directly from taxes or profits from utilities. Elected officials should be good stewards of the public's money and thoroughly analyze any new expenditures.
4. I support any project that develops, improves, and creates jobs in Las Cruces. To build a \$35 million hospital and surround it with a commerce area including a medical office complex, restaurants, shops and other businesses all in the heart of Las Cruces would attract even more businesses and jobs to our city.



### City Council District 4 Jack Eakman

1. I signed and supported the original CAFé initiative. I also spoke in favor of the initiative before the City Council, citing the positive experience I witnessed while overseeing nine (9) such increases in my experience as a Hospital Administrator. I believe the increase will be good for both local workers and the economy as a whole.
2. The City has done a good job consolidating ground water rights for current and future residents and visitors. Our two major aquifers are vulnerable to over pumping, however. Actively participating in state and regional planning and expansion of conservation efforts are essential. We must also find ways and means to capture the maximum quantities of water run-off to resupply the Mesilla Bolson.
3. The goals of public financing are most attractive; involving more people in the process, being less dependent on large donations, enhancing the image of municipal government. I am in favor of those values conceptually. We have two laboratories in New Mexico, Albuquerque and Santa Fe, from which to glean the results of their public financing models. I look forward to learning from their experiences.
4. While many view this as a missed opportunity, the property was and is privately owned. The City offered to purchase the land which was not accepted. Now the development plan has been approved, so my job as a Councilor will be to make sure that it is carried out properly. The positive aspects are that this is a large infill project using existing infrastructure and adding to the future tax base of the City.



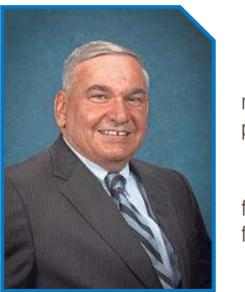
### City Council District 4 Gilbert Vasquez

1. I am committed to the minimum wage increase, I am one of the six thousand petitioners.
2. We need to shed light on this issue due to the fact that the path we are on we will deplete our aquifers. There is no turning back once this occurs. So we must discuss a plan of action.
3. The question we should ask is; how should we pay for election campaigns? I strongly believe we pay ten fold if we don't. Other states and municipalities have gone forward. I would support it.
4. No I don't support this project. We do not have a demand for another hospital, the city has settled for a few jobs. We need industry. My wife happens to be a registered nurse and I see the turnover employment rate at MMC, its almost like seasonal work. Both hospitals have room to expand so why a third? Whether a full hospital or a small facility, I believe it is a bad choice.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDING MUNICIPAL JUDGE

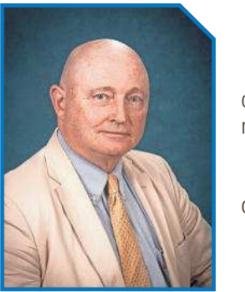
1. Describe the experience and qualifications needed to become Presiding Municipal Judge.
2. Give two examples of issues for the Municipal Court and explain how you would address them.

## CANDIDATES RESPONSE



### Presiding Municipal Judge William M. Kinsella

1. The Presiding Municipal Judge is a leader both inside and outside the Court. The Judge should know Evidence and have extensive courtroom trial experience. The Judge needs analytical skills in resolving trials, evidentiary issues or administrative problems. The Judge should be open to fresh approaches and innovations to provide better service for all parties in the Court. The Judge needs judicial temperament to work with people in solving problems.
2. Many of the people that come before the Municipal Court are usually working or attending classes during Court hours. I would explore ideas in making the Court more user friendly through internet access or changing the Court's operational hours. Las Cruces is growing, possibilities are: expansion of the Las Cruces Courts, or a Metro Court in the future. I will use my experience to help the Court to adapt to its' future.



### Presiding Municipal Judge Kieran Ryan

1. Strong judicial and administrative experience. While a private attorney for twenty years I was also an Alternate Municipal Judge for fourteen years prior to being selected by the city council to fulfill Judge Locatellis term. Subsequently, I was elected to a full term as Municipal Judge and have 17 1/2 years of judicial and administrative experience which is very necessary to run the Municipal Court.
2. The indigent defense fund for low income and no income defendants should be increased per attorney to better the caliber and quality of this representation. As the population of Las Cruces grows so do the needs of the Court to accommodate them, I would work with city council to expand Court space to eliminate lines.

#### ELECTION DAY

On Tuesday, November 3, the voting convenience centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ANY QUALIFIED VOTER MAY VOTE IN ANY ONE OF THE VOTING CONVENIENCE CENTERS IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES FOR THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION AS FOLLOWS:

1. Branigan Library- 200 E. Picacho Ave.
2. Doña Ana County Government Center- 845 N. Motel Blvd.
3. East Mesa Recreation Center- 5589 Porter Dr.
4. Frank O'Brien Papen Center (Formerly Mesilla Park Recreation Center)- 304 W. Bell Ave.
5. Good Samaritan- 3011 Buena Vida Cir.
6. Henry Benavidez Center- 1045 McClure St.
7. Meerscheidt Recreation Center- 1600 E. Hadley Ave.

8. Doña Ana Community College (East Mesa Branch)- 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
9. Munson Senior Center- 975 S. Mesquite St.
10. Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico- 4441 E. Lohman
11. Newman Center- 2615 S. Solano
12. Highland Elementary- 4201 Emerald St.
13. Jornada Elementary- 3400 Elks
14. Desert Hills Elementary- 280 Roadrunner Pkwy.

There will be someone who speaks Spanish at each of the polling places and at the City Clerk's Office.

**Voter Services Committee:** Marcia Anderson, Gwen Hanson, Dale Yeo

**Education Fund Contributors:** Ruth Benjamins, Jane Carter, Sally Cristman, Maggi Davidson, Barbara Goedecke, Erika Graf-Webster, Caroline Jackson, Judith Lapointe, Diane & Michael Lilley, Christina & William Little, Joan McClure-Post, Clifford Pelton, Rosemarie Sanchez, Donna Tate

**Community Supporters:** Anonymous, Sharon Burbano, Reed Burn, Barbara Lee Myers, Clifford Pelton, Nancy Phillips, Sunspot Solar, Donna Tate.

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