

CITY OF RIO RANCHO

The Rio Rancho City Council is composed of councilors elected by the voters to four-year staggered terms. The council has the power to adopt all ordinances, resolutions, or other legislation conducive to the welfare of the people in the community.

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

Should more be done to address water quality and future availability of water in Rio Rancho? If so, what?

District 1 Councilor

Deborah S. DAPSON



I am a small business owner in Rio Rancho. I have been in leadership positions in professional, civic and political organizations. I am currently on the executive committee for a major event in the area. As a graphic artist and website developer I have creative and critical thinking skills and am able to come up with creative solutions to problems that I encounter. I prefer to work collaboratively and look forward to potentially working with the mayor, city manager and other councilors.

Roads and infrastructure are my top priorities I live in the most rural part of Rio Rancho and there are many roads that are unpassable. I understand that Rio Rancho has had a road problem for over 30 years and that the governing body has been working on them. However, my intention is to be mouthpiece for the constituents of D1 and to advocate for our roads and infrastructure.

We should always be mindful of our water quality and availability. Rio Rancho has one of the best systems for water purification and retention with the aquifer injection system. Should more be done? Yes, as the city grows in citizenry and commerce, we must monitor the water usage and build more water waste management and injections sites, while looking into other solutions such as desalination of brackish water, water use control and harvesting rain water. Find a way to reduce water's cost.

Thomas N. GENTRY III



I grew up watching my father at meetings, first as a councilman, then as the Mayor of Corrales. That experience introduced me to what it looked like to serve my community, and it has been a goal of mine since then. I have my Master's degree in Business. I was an entrepreneur in Albuquerque and know how hard it can be running a small business. I am a straight forward communicator and I know how to effectively collaborate with others, even in high stress situations.

The top priority is water. This has already been addressed. So, now the city needs to move forward with the plans to fix the pipes. We need to work with contractors, take bids, and create a timeline to complete the repairs. I understand that this process will not be an easy undertaking, but it not going to get any easier or any less costly the longer we wait. We don't have to start big but we have to start somewhere.

Yes, first and foremost we need to fix the pipes with the leaks that are causing the city to lose millions of gallons of water and causing some people to have sand in their toilets. We need to fix the entire system of pipes, instead of just patching.

Jim OWEN



Eight years serving as District 1 city council member and 4 years as Mayor. Leadership roles in the creation of the outstanding Rio Rancho School District. Former Intel Site Manager, and owner of Owen Graphics.

Continued commitment ensuring our first responders; police, fire, emergency teams are retained and fully supported and appreciated.


Secure water resources through creative investments such as the ongoing aquifer reinjection project that supports our dynamic city growth.


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District 4 Councilor

<p>Raymond Anthony ARCHIBEQUE</p>  <p>Real Leadership for Rio Rancho</p>	<p>I am a retired Marine, serving nearly 30 years. I hold a Graduate Degree in Management/Organizational Development and Leadership. Bachelor's Degrees in Sociology and Communications. Corporate experience as an Operations Manager for Amazon. Small Business Experience as an owner, operator of Consulting Business's in Finance, Facilities Maintenance and Business/Leadership Management. VP of my HOA and am excited about serving my community on a larger scale again.</p>	<p>Our failing infrastructure needs immediate attention and not more band-aids. I plan to completely review all processes in place for our water usage, sand in our toilets. How and why it's gotten to this point! Our communities need to know what is at stake with more building and new infrastructure without a plan to take care of the old.</p>	<p>Bingo! Please see above for my response. WATER is my number one priority! Followed by NO INCREASE in property taxes, the old golf course plans and our roads.</p>
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<p>Alexandria C. PILAND</p> 	<p>My skills, education, and experiences have prepared me to become a City Councilor for the 4th District in the City of Rio Rancho. I have resided in Rio Rancho for the past twenty-eight years and am a life-long Democrat. I have a degree in Paralegal Studies, a B.A. in English, and my graduate coursework was in Rhetoric and Writing Studies. I taught for 25 years at CNM/TVI where I first held an administrative position as the Educational Coordinator for the Welfare to Work program, TVI Works.</p>	<p>As the District 4 City Councilor my number one priority is to make our city a clean and fair place to live and work. The city needs to equitably address the needs of its citizens. Equal opportunities for services and jobs that pay well should be available to all, regardless of sexual orientation, religion, and ethnicity. Giving oxygen to culture wars in our city has got to stop, and as a City Councilor, I will work hard to stop it.</p>	<p>I have toured the water infrastructure in our city, and our water is quite good. It is safe and the water processing facilities are state-of-the-art and employ well-trained, professional people. Good infrastructure is essential for our current residents and businesses and necessary for growth. Water availability is an issue that must be addressed through planned development. We cannot continue to build without considering water consumption by new businesses and residents.</p>
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<p>Paul M. WYMER</p> 	<p>I am the current sitting City Councilor for District 4. My 4 years in office make me the most qualified candidate for the position. I have learned the details required of a City Councilor including coordinating with staff, other elected and appointed officials, and most importantly, the citizens of Rio Rancho. Prior to being elected to the seat, I served on the Planning and Zoning Board for the City for approximately 6 years, ultimately becoming the Chair of the Board.</p>	<p>Over the past 4 years, I have been a part of implementing many new City initiatives and projects that have resulted in a very successful running City. The City is in the best financial condition it has ever been, earning flawless audits and an upgrade to our bond rating. Police and Fire are highly respected in the community. Several new quality of life projects have been provided to benefit the community. My top priority will be to build on these successes and initiate new, where beneficial.</p>	<p>The City currently meets or exceeds all Federal Government standards for water quality. Water availability is governed in part by the State of New Mexico which mandates when additional water rights must be acquired. Additionally, the City has implemented a water injection process where purified reuse water is injected into the aquifer. This process, plus water rights acquisitions, insures there will be sufficient water quantity for the foreseeable future.</p>
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District 6 Councilor

Nicole Dahn LIST



I live, work and am a consumer of Rio Rancho. I have invested time to familiarize myself with each of the city departments and directors. It has been a pleasure to see how efficiently they operate and an honor to be a part of the system that keeps Rio Rancho moving forward. I am the only candidate in my district with municipal government experience.

Thanks to GO Bond and federal funding the city has been able to fix 40% of residential roads in the past four years. I will support continued forward movement to fix roads. Public safety is key to a thriving community. In the past 8 years the city has increased funding for public safety by 62%. I will be a champion for additional funding to support the growing needs of the City. Economic development, we need to provide employment opportunities to our residents as well as bring in revenue.

The City puts out an annual water report. The City is consistently monitoring water and supply quality. We lead the state in sustainability practices. We need to ensure this for our children's future.

Edward Lynn PAULSGROVE

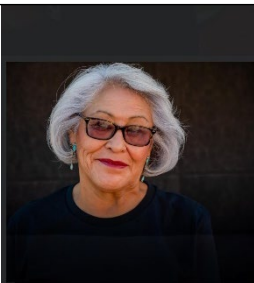


Communication, Leadership and Innovation – Beginning as a paratrooper with the US Army, through my career as a Regulatory Project Manager (PM) for the Albuquerque District, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), these were key skills in collaborating with Federal, Tribal, State, and local governmental entities as well as members of the public. In addition, I also led the ABQ District Individuals with Disabilities program into a nationally recognized success. I'll bring these skills to City Council.

Assuring Rio Ranchoans that their voices will be heard. For too long, District 6 residents have expressed disappointment and frustration that councilors ignored their concerns. My career as a Regulatory PM required responding to members of the public, whether it was on the phone, electronically, or with site visits. I'll continue that service as District 6 councilor, I'll meet with constituents onsite and "kick the dirt" as we come together on ways forward.

Yes, water is the city's most important natural resource. The city has added 1,100 acre feet in water rights in the last 7 years. But Rio Rancho also reports water system distribution leaks resulting in the loss of over 270 MILLION gallons in 2022! Can we do better? Yes, we can! I will review maintenance schedules for improvements. To protect water quality, I will also review the city's Source Water Protection Program for possible increased contaminant source setbacks.

Aleta P. SUAZO



The abilities that qualify me for this office, includes my Education: BA (Psychology) & MA (Education Administration) and the 35+ years of experience as a Program Administrator, for many educational programs that I managed at the tribal, State and Federal level. In addition, I have been a resident of Rio Rancho for 37 years, of which 33 of those years are in District 6.

Rio Rancho is currently seen as the fastest growing city in New Mexico. With that comes concerns for building a community that addresses all the needs of their community. We must focus on our roads, public safety, and city services such as water, wastewater and solid waste. The city must leverage State and Federal funds for infrastructure repair and expansion. Repairing our roads is essential for continued growth as well as providing sustainable water resources at reasonable costs.

As a pueblo woman, I have been taught my whole life, that our water is life and is sacred to all our communities, including Rio Rancho. This includes safe, clean water for our residents that will support future growth and expansion. With research and planning, I feel that this can be accomplished without further depleting our most precious resource - water.

Chris J. VANDEN-HEUVEL

The eight years I worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory with a Q clearance (like Oppenheimer) and a three million dollar credit card completing maintenance and construction projects demonstrated my ability to exercise responsible judgement and deal with complicated budgetary issues under duress. Most of you have heard of the Pentagon's \$1200 toilet seats. I paid \$11.99 for these same items on my remodeling projects. I was able to cut Roads and Grounds project construction time by 80%.

My top priority is to help Rio Rancho remain safe and prepare for future crime and terrorism resulting from the Biden open border policy. The spreading lawlessness in our state is fostered by marxist social policies such as criminal catch and release, or making the victim the criminal. We live next to one of the worst crime-ridden cities in the nation. We have to keep crime, squalor and urban decay out of Rio Rancho. Lets keep Rio Rancho a great place to live, prosper, and raise a family.

We finally have a RR Water Utility Director, Jim Chiasson, who knows what he is doing. The City has done a superb job of combining water and road repairs, but will need to deal with thirty per cent inflation for construction costs and the enormous backlog of postponed maintenance and repairs. We may get hard water from some wells, but the City provides safe water and has been vigilant in securing future supplies. The administration is now doing good work in this area of governance.