

Mayor Keller to address Albuquerque Sanctuary City Protections from ICE



LWVCNM welcomes third term Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller for an address to members during our Annual Meeting in Albuquerque Saturday, May 9th. Mayor Keller will discuss the CABQ stance as a Sanctuary City and protections offered to residents which are not uniformly observed by communities nationwide.

On July 21, 2025 Mayor Tim Keller issued an Executive Order reaffirming Albuquerque's longstanding commitment as an immigrant-friendly city and outlined specific actions to safeguard the rights and safety of immigrant and refugee communities. The order comes in response to recent federal legislation and enforcement practices that threaten due process, destabilize families, and undermine trust in local government. [View the Executive Order](#) or [visit the Defend ABQ webpage](#). These CABQ provisions include Protection of Immigration Due Process, Implementation and Oversight, Transparency in City Services, Transparency in Federal Immigration Enforcement, Protection of Children, Including Migrant Youth, and Support for Working Families.

These CABQ immigrant protection programs contrast sharply with many states and communities nationwide who have promoted the incentives offered to law enforcement by ICE since enactment of Executive Order (EO) 14159, *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* issued by President Trump January 20, 2025'. This EO requires ICE to authorize State and local law enforcement officials, as the Secretary of Homeland Security determines are qualified and appropriate, under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the maximum extent permitted by law. [Delegation of Immigration Authority Section 287\(g\) Immigration and Nationality Act | ICE](#) Several states, including but not limited to Georgia and Florida, have

passed, or are considering, State legislation mandating law enforcement agencies (LEAs) seek out or enter into memorandums of agreement (MOA) with ICE pursuant to a partnership under the 287(g) Program. DHS promotion of this cooperation requests law enforcement agency or office participation in the [Department of Justice's State Criminal Alien Assistance Program](#).

As a result of our Sanctuary City status will CABQ be subject to punitive cuts to necessary programs? These may include:

- More than \$200 million in federal grants including early childhood development programs, funding for officers to keep streets safe, and sexual assault testing kits.
- Cuts to public safety for police, fire, and emergency response.
- Housing and homeless support and essential housing programs including \$25 million for 400 units at Uptown.
- Infrastructure Grants for City projects are in jeopardy including housing, bike trails, pedestrian safety, and road safety and development.

Mayor Tim Keller is a lifelong NM resident and is serving his third term as Mayor of Albuquerque. Keller previously served as NM State Auditor and NM Senator representing District 17, the Albuquerque International District. Prior to this service his career included 15 years working with Tribal governments and large companies. He also resided in Cambodia, where he ran the nation's first technology company bringing living wage opportunities to landmine victims and survivors of trafficking. Tim Keller is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he studied Art History and earned an MBA with honors from Harvard. He is an Eagle Scout and received the Mayoral Leadership Award from the Leadership Network, NAACP Community Champion Award, and Americans for the Arts City Leadership in the Arts Award. Mayor Keller and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Kistin Keller have two children.

Please join LWVCNM members for our Annual Meeting Saturday May 9th as we become more aware of the protection offered to Albuquerque residents and potential backlash we could endure.