

Tucson Metro Chamber
City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Juan Francisco Padrés

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Ward: 3

Occupation: Importer-Distributor Craft Beer, Wine and Spirits

Education: Master's of Business Administration (UA 09), BA Political Science (UA 03)

What relevant experience, knowledge or perspective would you bring to the City Council that prepares you for this position?

I worked for 6 years at the City Manager's office as the Economic Development and International Trade Specialist. I know the council, the bureaucracy, management practices etc., and I am very familiar with the City of Tucson and its major issues. I have also owned and operated 5 different businesses, have worked for two fortune 100 companies, Wells Fargo and JP Morgan Chase, and I am currently President of the non-profit Tucson-Sister Cities, Inc. There are currently no candidates or elected officials with my background.

What is your vision for Tucson?

Tucson has all the tools to be a great city. We need to focus our direction and resources on making Tucson a much more competitive world class city. We need to make Tucson more attractive for foreign direct investment, and facilitate economic development to reduce Tucson's above average poverty rate.

What are your policy priorities and how do you see yourself partnering with the Chamber on these issues?

My policy priorities revolve around Economic Development, Transportation, Public Safety and Affordable Housing. I think there is an opportunity to collaborate with the chamber on all of these.

In your opinion, what are the top three most important issues small businesses in Tucson face today?

1. Lack of a qualified workforce (education)
2. Lack of purchasing power from the general population (poverty)
3. Slow economic growth throughout the region

What is the relationship between the business community and government and how can they work together to promote a business-friendly climate?

Government's role should be to provide the proper environment for businesses to succeed. City government should be able to help facilitate growth and expansion with policies that help businesses succeed while promoting and ensuring quality of life for all residents.

What is the City's role in economic development and business growth?

The city's role is to help facilitate and promote economic development. It is the city's role to create the right environment for business growth as well.

What role should local government play in ensuring an adequate workforce is available to meet employers' needs?

Local government should promote workforce development by partnering with local school districts, community colleges and universities to ensure schools are graduating the students with "in-demand" skills our local business community is looking for.

What specific efforts do you propose the City can implement to reduce the current level of poverty and homelessness?

Local government should promote workforce development by partnering with local school districts, community colleges and universities to ensure schools are graduating the students with "in-demand" skills our local business community is looking for.

What unmet needs do you see in the area of infrastructure (roads, internet and transportation)?

We need to address road repair, specifically in neglected neighborhoods. High speed internet not only makes us more competitive as a community but it helps with education and business productivity. We need to ensure that all Tucsonans have access to high speed internet. Lastly we need to address our public transportation system as a way to move our workforce. I believe it is an underutilized asset that can be much more productive.

Do you support a dedicated City tax for infrastructure?

Yes

Do you support a dedicated City tax for education?

Yes

Do you support the City's participation in RTA Next?

Yes

Do you support the expansion of the Central Business District and the use of the GPLET?

Yes

Would you support the City of Tucson becoming a designated Sanctuary City?

Yes

Would you vocalize support for the F-35 to be stationed in Tucson?

Yes

Do you support policies that shift infrastructure improvements to developers and the private sector?

Yes