

Tucson Metro Chamber
City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Lucy LiBosha

Party Affiliation: Independent

Ward: 3

Occupation: Teacher, small business owner

Education: Master of Arts, Education

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

Public school, Title 1 educator. I see directly the needs of children, families and communities. Also as an educator of nearly 20 years, my ability to identify community needs, collaborate with others, and to seek for shared solutions, is relevant as a City Councilmember. As a council member, I will have the immediate ability to positively impact my community.

Former BICAS board member. This volunteer role allowed me to connect community to transportation to empower communities as an alternative, relevant and powerful form of transportation. BICAS empowers communities through education and sustainability and are noteworthy characteristics for localized leadership.

Former City of Tucson, Complete Streets Coordinating Committee member (CSCC). In driving, biking or walking about the City, I have noticed on more than a few occasions, our neighbors in wheelchairs utilizing the bike lane because there are no (or there are inadequate) sidewalks throughout the City. I applied for a position on CSCC with what I consider to be community needs for other folks. Sympathy and Empathy is what I would bring to the Office of Tucson City Council when elected.

Lived in many different neighborhoods/wards in Tucson prior to buying my home. I have lived on the southside, I have lived in Flowing Wells, and I have live in central Tucson. Each of these communities are unique and were special and wonderful experiences for me. However there are issues of access to resources, safety, and other infrastructures in need of addressing. I believe that we can honor and respect all neighborhoods throughout the City, while providing equity regarding shared city resources.

Lived experiences as a former Army veteran. I grew up poor and have lived in other states and overseas. I grew up in an area where 'inclusionary zoning' allowed low to medium income families to live in upper income neighborhoods. I believe that inclusion zoning increases diversity along socio-economic, cultural and racial lines. Increasing diversity throughout Tucson serves to strengthen Tucson.

Volunteerism. I have participated in many local campaigns to include the fight for minimum wage increase in 2016. As a high school math teacher in Tucson, I recognize the poverty in my students' eyes. I was them at that time in my life. School isn't important when you are hungry or when you are dealing (more often than not) silently with trauma. I have worked with too

many students who are 'homeless' or whose family works minimum wage jobs, or my students themselves are their family's 'breadwinners' working after school jobs and late hours. The current Fight for \$15 promises to bring low-income wage earners closer to what's considered a 'living wage'. What I would bring as councilwoman is the empathy in policy decision-making that reflects the needs and support of hardworking Tucson individuals and families.

Community Collaboration. Lastly, even as a public school teacher, I have always included others in the decision-making process. Yes, even my students! The sentiment, voice and story of every single Tucson constituent (regardless of party affiliation or if I have earned a constituent's vote) deserves to be heard and perspective(s) considered. It's that kind of collaboration, the collaboration/transparency and communication across Ward 3, across the City and with the Mayor and Council that I intend to cultivate. Building and strengthening, learning and growing together, for our Tucson!

What is your vision for Tucson?

My vision: Invest, Connect, and Uplift Tucson!

Invest in the people not developers! Allocate enough of the city budget to social services, housing, and community development to fit the demand. Establish and fund free and affordable housing and healthcare to through neighborhood-led initiatives and community land trusts to stop gentrification, displacement, and the destruction of cultural landmarks around the city

Connect and collaborate with neighborhoods, businesses, and organizations to brainstorm and create plans of action to tackle our city's problems in a way that is transparent and establishes accountability with city leadership who must consider every voice in our community

Uplift Tucson by prioritizing neighborhood-led public works programs to improve and maintain our city with smart streets, public art, micro-farms, and green infrastructure in order to transform the most neglected areas of Tucson while simultaneously providing jobs to people who need an opportunity to advance or learn a skill. Poverty is at the root of crime, not just economic poverty, but educational poverty improve pedestrian infrastructure, update public safety, and make it easier for people and businesses to thrive

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

I had my air conditioning unit malfunction recently. The AC guy (Kevin) and I held a brief conversation. The company was his business, in which he claimed that he was "tired of working for someone else." I asked his opinion about the \$15 minimum wage as a small business man. Kevin's response was that for the "big jobs" (like HVAC installations, etc.) he hires contractors, and pays them more than \$15 an hour. He spoke to the skillset needed to perform heating and cooling duties.

My policy priorities in partnering with the Chamber involves practical policy decision making that increases the skillset of the Tucson workforce. As a math teacher, if my students can't perform rudimentary math computations by a certain grade, it's unacceptable, yet school districts and society are sending a workforce out into the community ill-equipped and that affects our viability as a city.

Policy priorities are policy practices. Education, training and support is necessary for a viable workforce ethic, as well as expanding opportunities to a formerly incarcerated population. Providing the Tucson workforce with 21st century skillset, to include environmental, climate change and sustainability, will propel our community to thrive for years to come.

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

1. As we're entering a 'pseudo'-post pandemic, #1 important issue would be bringing workers back and longevity (decrease worker turnover).
2. the \$15 minimum wage proposal.
3. economic Recovery post-pandemic, changes in business model.

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

The relationship between the business community and government goes beyond a symbiotic, wherein both entities benefit. It is city government's role and responsibility to cultivate a landscape that is idyllic, viable and safe in which to have a successful business. It then becomes the responsibility of the business in providing employment for the City's workforce. The relationship is a 'pendulum' between business incentives granted to business owners/corporations by the city (small businesses, CBDs/GPLETs, etc.) and the expectation of the number of jobs created from said relationship.

To promote a healthier business-friendly climate is to look at the 'bigger picture'. What types of work is being brought to Tucson, and what's the workforce currently existing in Tucson? Amazon, Raytheon??? Call centers? What is the educational infrastructure needed to support all workforces? And what is the relationship between school districts, colleges and the City and businesses???? What about 21st century tech careers, green jobs, and environmental stability? As the next Ward 3 councilwoman, I would lead with these questions to work collectively toward concrete and viable solutions.

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

Economic 'vitality' of a city is literally the life and/or a death of a city! The city's ability to bring in revenue is crucial, and so in supporting the business community in every aspect is equally vital. The City of Tucson has an ""Office of Economic Initiatives"". These incentives support business in getting started, growing and maintaining a successful business venture(s) and is often in the best interest of the city.

However success in economic growth and development cannot dismiss other communal factors. The overall health of a city is wrought with imperative variables for a vibrant business and a vibrant workforce to consider. Components that potentially affect the economic development and business growth: homelessness, transportation, affordable housing, access to mental and medical care, living wages, in general access surrounding basic needs of our community.

As Ward 3's next councilwoman, I intend to build coalitions with the business community and social services to create and implement solutions. When families, residents and communities thrive, businesses thrive, Tucson thrives!

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

Public and Charter schools are vital in ensuring workforce preparedness. Local governments are not necessarily certified educators and are not pedagogical experts. Local government has an understanding of employer needs in the workforce. I don't believe that business community should determine school curricula.

Local government can play the role of intermediary between school districts and the business community. Communication should be the tool used between the two entities in ensuring employers' needs for an adequate workforce.

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

- tackle poverty in an authentic and transformative way, provide affordable housing, tax incentives for homeowners, green incentives, etc.
 - increase job infrastructure and increase accessibility for all of Tucson to downtown and throughout the city by expanding public transportation (folks should not lose their job because they cannot access their work)
 - expand mental healthcare and substance abuse programs in Tucson (peer advocacy/coalitions)
 - build upon peer advocacy and coalitions: youth, young people, adults, professionals, seniors, the undocumented, and all and any sectors of Tucson that have been historically left out of the conversation
 - Small and Large Business Community: address the needs and wants of the community, programs and subsidies to help ease the transition to \$15 minimum wage for small businesses, small businesses are also dealing with crime and property damage.
 - Public Restroom Improvement Project: like Portland Loos, the solar powered, public bathrooms that hire folks to clean and maintain, will increase community engagement and pedestrian infrastructure
 - Increase awareness of property tax freeze program and create other incentivizes for long term homeowners
- Improve and revitalize neighborhoods without gentrification
- Increase and open up the flow of communication between citizens and Mayor and Council - more public forums, citizen led budget committees)
 - Reallocate money from other areas of budget for Community Development and Housing

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

As a former member of the Complete Streets Coordinating Committee (CSCC), the direction that the Committee needs to take regarding road infrastructure is one that is a less car-centered infrastructure to create multi-used spaces, similar to what exists in a much more densely populated NYC. There also needs to be an infrastructure that is inclusive of roads/streets,

sidewalks, etc., that can accommodate wheelchair access properly. The most disconcerting images in Tucson that I have personally witnessed on more than one occasion, is the wheelchair-bound older Tucsonan traversing along Broadway mid-day in a motorized wheelchair with his (or her) grandchild (my interpretation) sitting on a lap, rolling along the bike path because of the crude existing structure that is not conducive to travel by wheelchair.

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?

No

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?

No

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

No