



GABE VASQUEZ

Las Cruces City Councilor, New Mexico
Elected 2017



WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT OR IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

I've been able to bring new voices and new power to sit at the decision-making table. That is and will continue to be my most important accomplishment. I represent a community that looks like me, and trusts me to make the best decisions along with them as my term continues.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Learning the intricacies of local government and how to effectively implement public policy and bring public investment into my district. These are "trade" secrets that if not handed down can make for a steep learning curve.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

I'd encourage them to first look in their heart to see what motivates them to run for office, and if they have the passion and desire to continue their path forward, they absolutely should. Being an elected official is not about power, it's about people. And if you're in it to help people, please run for office now!

IS THERE A CONSERVATION, CLIMATE OR DEMOCRACY-RELATED RULE, POLICY OR IDEA YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

I helped spearhead the effort to create the Outdoor Equity Fund in New Mexico, legislation currently being proposed in conjunction with a state Division of Outdoor Recreation. The Outdoor Equity Fund would provide state-administered micro-grants to fund outdoor recreation programs that serve low-income youth. This fund would help to create the next generation of conservationists in New Mexico.

