


Albuquerque, New Mexico • Phase 1 Report

The results are in!

Find out what Albuquerque residents believe should change to secure a better future for everyone.

Change.org and the City of Albuquerque teamed up to start a conversation that crossed boundaries:

“What would **positive change** look like in Albuquerque?”



Get thousands of people to share their ideas and vote on the ideas of others.

Identify their **common interests**, despite differences on other issues.

Bring 100 people together for a conversation about those resonant issues.

Address the staggering amount of litter that panhandlers leave behind, particularly the easements up and down Michigan/Telegraph ramps where they perch

Traffic could be eased in many intersections if the timing of the lights was set to better intervals, especially in around UNM

Set up additional Trade early apprenticeship programs for youth 16 to 24 years of age

In Phase 1, we received **75,681** votes on
1,064 IDEAS
from **1,662** residents.

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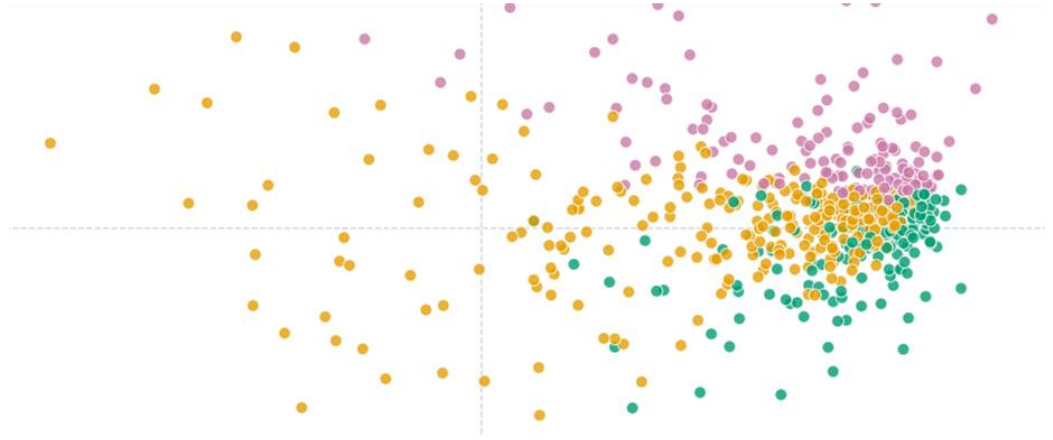
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Require contractual performance guarantees of any organizations receiving public funds to perform public aid for health and housing projects

Add more rehabilitation options and requirements for post release or diversion, like probation with mandatory mental health and/or addiction services

Identify repeat violent offenders driving crime. Bring them to call-ins with police & community leaders

Our analysis identified priorities with broad support across 3 opinion groups



■ **Housing & Transit Advocates**

Center compassionate, systems-level solutions to homelessness and housing insecurity, paired with robust investment in free and frequent public transit.

■ **Pragmatic Community Builders**

Focus on broad, practical quality-of-life improvements — cleaner streets, better schools, accessible healthcare, and balanced approaches to city challenges.

■ **Law & Order Prioritizers**

Place public safety, strict law enforcement, and civic accountability at the top of their agenda, favoring tougher sentencing and reallocation of resources to policing.

HOUSING & TRANSIT ADVOCATES

The largest group, they center compassionate, systems-level solutions to homelessness and housing insecurity, paired with robust investment in free and frequent public transit. They favor housing-first approaches, engagement with unhoused residents on their own terms. They strongly oppose punitive enforcement measures and the removal of sanctuary city protections.

MAKE OR BREAK

Significantly increase funding for public transit and increase frequency & routes (including mornings, evenings & weekends) in most impacted communities. And keep public transit free & safe with Albuquerque Community Safety Department.

This group: 99% approve

vs Others: 39% approve

60% gap

Housing-first and dignified solutions for unhoused residents

Free, frequent, and expanded public transit

Opposition to encampment sweeps and criminalization of homelessness

Sanctuary city protections and inclusive immigration policy

Community-led and nonprofit-partnered approaches to city needs

SUPPORTS

Invest in renewable energy that makes electricity bills lower or zero like Australia. 100% approve

Work with local non-profits to create community housing on vacant city-owned lots 100% approve

Increased times of transit services for those who work late/early. 100% approve

OPPOSES

Start charging bus fees again. 88% oppose

End the sanctuary policy 87% oppose

Stop using taxpayer funds to support everyone else for unlimited time 70% oppose

PRAGMATIC COMMUNITY BUILDERS

This large group is focused on broad, practical improvements to everyday quality of life — from cleaner streets and better schools to accessible healthcare and senior services. They support a balanced approach, favoring investment in public goods and social infrastructure while opposing extreme positions on either end of the political spectrum.

MAKE OR BREAK

Raise hiring standards and hire more Police. Increase the number of patrols both in vehicles and on foot/ bikes. More traffic enforcement to focus on speeding, running red lights, reckless driving, road rage etc.

This group: 96% approve

vs Others: 64% approve

32% gap

Cleaner neighborhoods and well-maintained public spaces

Accessible healthcare and attraction of medical professionals

Strong schools with healthy food and youth engagement programs

Support for seniors, elders, and accessible transit services

Balanced approach to homelessness, drug use, and public safety

SUPPORTS

Create safe, walkable entertainment districts (nightlife, family, arts). Ensure strong lighting, cleanliness, & visible safety presence. Support local venues & restaurants. Concentrated activity boosts the economy & safe gathering places. 100% approve

Focus on attracting more doctors and medical professionals to the state and city and address the reasons why they are leaving. 99% approve

Bring back industrial art to middle and high schools. Direct path to trade school after graduation... Partner with industry. 98% approve

OPPOSES

There should be an 8 block area on Central where there is no traffic. Not even bikes. 71% oppose

Total elimination of all Socialist welfare programs. Move every dime to law enforcement - add 600 additional trained officers... 70% oppose

Encourage businesses to incentivize their employees to get to work in a way other than a car. 65% oppose

LAW & ORDER PRIORITIZERS

This smaller but distinct group places public safety, strict law enforcement, and civic accountability at the top of their agenda. They favor tougher sentencing for repeat offenders, elimination of sanctuary city status, and a significant reallocation of resources toward policing. They are skeptical of housing-first and social-service approaches to homelessness.

MAKE OR BREAK

Other countries have a "housing first" mindset, using small private houses rather than shelters packed with people. After people are comfortably housed, we can safely address the multiple reason why they were/remain unhoused.

This group: 10% approve

vs Others: 91% approve

81% gap

- Tougher sentencing and keeping violent criminals incarcerated
- Elimination of sanctuary city status
- Reallocation of funding toward law enforcement
- Opposition to housing-first and encampment accommodation policies
- Civic pride, clean streets, and water conservation enforcement

SUPPORTS

- More strict and severe consequences for parole violators 100% approve
- Get the homeless off the streets. Whatever we did 20 years ago we must do again. Our population is decreasing because of how bad our city looks. 95% approve
- APD need to enforce traffic laws and have a strong presence on the interstates inside of the city 94% approve

OPPOSES

- Keep public transit in ABQ free. The increased Metro Transit cops have helped with driver and passenger safety. Free bus rides mean bus drivers aren't dealing with angry riders. Reduces pollution. 95% oppose
- Promote gender and racial equality in education, workplaces, healthcare. Ensure diversity training is part of all public institutions required workforce development. Hold leaders accountable for metrics in hiring and promotion. 88% oppose
- Housing first solutions for the homeless population. 87% oppose

Unifying Ideas

These are the ideas that were popular across all groups, regardless of other differences.*

View all ideas and their measures of bridging support [here](#).

*Scores reflect the minimum support across the groups; rankings account for pass/rates.

**Duplicates not included in this list.

#1

Fix potholes in roads before they cause accidents
(94% BRIDGING SUPPORT)

2. Traffic could be eased in many intersections if the timing of the lights was set to better intervals, especially around UNM. **(90%)**
3. Find a way to fund crews to keep the city clean (downtown and other neighborhoods too). Other cities are managing to do this. **(90%)**
4. Invest and implement infrastructure repairs and upgrades. Too many water pipe breaks when water is so critical. Repair existing r roads/ parking lots in all parts of the city. Too many potholes, worn cracked pavement etc. **(90%)**
5. Term limits on city council **(89%)**
6. Enforce all traffic laws **(88%)**
7. Justice to the Bernalillo County clerks office? Not allowing anybody to forge home warranty deeds to be their own? County clerks office allowed fraud and forgery with Notaries not doing appropriate paperwork with owners of property? **(87%)**
8. Do something to end the prolific running of red lights by drivers. **(87%)**
9. Focus on attracting more doctors and medical professionals to the state and city. **(87%)**
10. Have the road repair barrels and signs picked up the DAY the construction/repair is done. **(87%)**

Resonant Issues: 1-3

The issues that were most important to all groups

01

Homelessness, Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder

58
IDEAS

Take visible action, target hot spots, designate sleeping locations, and enforce panhandling rules.

02

Road Maintenance

48
IDEAS

Repair potholes, optimize traffic signals, coordinate construction timelines, and restore road markings.

03

Street Safety

42
IDEAS

Strengthen traffic enforcement, enforce licensing and registration, and improve pedestrian safety.

"We can no longer ignore the extreme destabilization of the 'Int'l. District'. Chronic crime, open air drug market, homeless encampments with streets buried in trash, have pushed this area to a breaking point due to political negligence."

✓ 86% bridge

"Fix potholes in roads before they cause accidents."

✓ 94% bridge

"Do something to end the prolific running of red lights by drivers."

✓ 87% bridge

"I cannot safely walk with my little ones on the sidewalks in downtown with aggressive people on drugs asking us for money, and covering the sidewalk while they sleep, or do drugs, or use the bathroom in front of my children. Please fix this."

✓ 85% bridge

"Have the road repair barrels and signs picked up the DAY the construction/repair is done."

✓ 87% bridge

"Please crack down on drivers who don't have plates or the covers that make it impossible to see the license plate number. I see several driving around on a daily basis. There's no consequences and they don't receive tickets..."

✓ 83% bridge

"Add more rehabilitation options and requirements for post release or diversion, like probation with mandatory mental health and/or addiction services for after release from prison/jail to support needs, reintegration and reduce recidivism."

✓ 82% bridge

"Better ways to pay for and care for our roads, they are constantly being worked on and we never seem to see any real progress, it's become a game of maintenance instead of quality for longevity."

✓ 83% bridge

"Patrols of racers on Tramway and other main streets, and stiff fines if they're caught."

✓ 83% bridge

✓ % shows cross-group bridging score

Resonant Issues: 4-6

The issues that were most important to all groups

04

42
IDEAS

Neighborhood Revitalization

Attract businesses, activate downtown, expand events, and update housing and zoning.

Revisit antiquated residential zoning. Our neighborhoods are different than they were 60-80 years ago. Antiquated zoning keeps us from closing alleys and walkways that are now used for criminal activity, drug use, and homeless camps.

✓ 86% bridge

"I believe downtown is one of our greatest chances to become a unified city. I would love to see more police and everyday workers cleaning the streets of garbage and filth. Can we please just have a downtown that feels safe.."

✓ 80% bridge

"Instead of building so many carwashes, gas stations and banks how about the city bring businesses like different restaurants, entertainment, grocery stores like Aldi."

✓ 74% bridge

05

37
IDEAS

Governance

Establish term limits, strengthen ethics oversight, and expand civic access

"Term limits on city council."

✓ 89% bridge

"Take money out of politics. Advocate for changes in campaign finance. Democrats are as much to blame as Republicans. If Dems wanted to change the law, they would."

✓ 86% bridge

"Require contractual performance guarantees of any organizations receiving public funds to perform public aid for health and housing projects. This would increase administrative and fiscal accountability within publicly funded projects."

✓ 85% bridge

06

35
IDEAS

Public Safety

Hire more officers, improve response times, hold repeat offenders accountable, and improve transit safety.

"Have security on nighttime buses and weekend buses."

✓ 80% bridge

"More strict and severe consequences for parole violators."

✓ 80% bridge

"Identify repeat violent offenders driving crime. Bring them to call-ins with police & community leaders: stop violence now. Offer jobs, housing & mentorship immediately. If not, swift targeted enforcement. Proven to cut violent crime."

✓ 80% bridge

✓ % shows cross-group bridging score

Of everything we heard,

Homelessness, Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder

emerged as the topic to talk about in the dialogue.

RELEVANT

Residents consistently engaged with this topic. Homelessness was an issue that resonated strongly across all three opinion groups — making it a clear point of shared interest.

ACTIONABLE

Mental health services, managing encampments in public spaces, and shelter operations are core municipal activities of city government.

COMPLEX

Real trade offs exist between prioritizing prevention approaches, promotion of shelter and treatment services, and enforcement. Residents broadly agree homelessness is an issue— but disagree about how aggressively to enforce, what role police play versus other interventions, and how to ensure accountability.

NEXT UP

Albuquerque Civic Dialogue

We'll gather a representative group of 100 residents from all over the city to talk about:

Homelessness in Albuquerque.

If you are interested in participating in the live dialogue, sign up at ideasforchange.org/albuquerque.