

# NEWS RELEASE

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## SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES ALBUQUERQUE CANDIDATES

**Albuquerque** - The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club today announced the endorsement of candidates in the upcoming Albuquerque municipal election, as well as endorsements in the APS board election and Soil and Water Conservation District Elections. The Sierra Club endorsed the following candidates:

Tim Keller, Mayor  
Lan Sena, City Council District 1  
Cynthia Borrego, City Council District 5  
Tammy Fiebelkorn, City Council District 7  
Rob Grilley, City Council District 9

Emma Jones, Albuquerque Public School Board District 5  
Josefina (Josie) Dominguez, Albuquerque Public School Board District 6  
Julie Brenning, Albuquerque Public School Board District 7

Steve Glass, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District  
Zoe Economou, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District  
Teresa Smith de Cherif, Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District

“This is an outstanding slate of candidates,” said Richard Barish, the Political Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter. “Mayor Keller has made Albuquerque a leader in municipal use of renewable energy.”

With the Solar Direct project scheduled to come online later this year, combined with 10.4 MW of onsite solar installed or planned for City buildings, Albuquerque is on track to reach 80% renewable energy use for city operations by 2022, and Mayor Keller has committed to 100% by 2030. Under programs initiated by Mayor Keller, Albuquerque is continuing its energy audits and facility upgrade work with a goal of reducing its energy consumption by 65 percent. Mayor Keller has committed to electrifying the City’s bus and vehicle fleet. Under Mayor Keller’s leadership, Albuquerque is well on its way to on becoming one of the top 10 U.S. cities powered by renewable energy.

“We’re really excited about the candidates running for City Council this year,” said Diane Reese, the Chair of the Central New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club, adding: “We owe it to our

members to endorse folks who are willing to take action, and we think these candidates are the environmental champions we need right now.”

Tammy Fiebelkorn is running for the open seat in Council District 7. Fiebelkorn is the New Mexico Representative for the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project. She has been a leader in securing passage of energy efficiency legislation at the State Legislature, as well as in the Albuquerque City Council. She works with Prosperity Works on the Community Energy Efficiency Project, which provides efficiency upgrades to low-income homeowners in the International District.

Councilor Sena worked to provide more green space for Albuquerque residents and to protect vulnerable open space areas. Councilor Cynthia Borrego was a co-sponsor of the “Clean and Green Ordinance,” which banned single use plastic bags for many retail uses. Newcomer Rob Grilley, running for the open seat in Council District 9, is committed to acting to address the climate emergency at the city level.

“This may be the first time we’ve endorsed candidates for the school board,” Barish noted. “School boards are important races. Schools are where our children will learn what they can do to address climate change, and schools are often placed on the front lines of so many important equity issues that are intimately related to environmental issues.”

“We’re looking forward to solid off-year turnout to elect some great leaders,” Reese said. “All eligible citizens should get out and vote.”

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***About the Sierra Club:***

*The Sierra Club is America’s largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters, including more than 30,000 in New Mexico. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action.*