



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” (Martin Luther King Jr.)

### **OUR COLLECTIVE VALUES**

- In New Mexico, we have a proud history of immigrant-led movements working with community based organizations, faith leaders, elected officials, and allies to pass policies which are conducive to immigrant integration, to upholding civil and labor rights, and to keeping New Mexico’s families together. We are committed to building upon this foundation and ensuring that local governments work with our communities to strengthen and pass policies which protect immigrant communities that are currently being targeted and persecuted by the Trump administration.
- We believe in equity, respect, inclusivity and the full integration of our communities. Immigrant and refugee communities contribute to the social, economic, cultural and intellectual fiber of this nation yet are disproportionately impacted by lack of opportunities for economic security, access to resources, protections from civil rights violations and exploitation in the workplace, representation in the political sphere, and opportunities for full integration in the country we call home.
- Many of the institutions we interact with perpetuate racism and oppression onto communities of color. We believe in uplifting the injustices faced by immigrants and people of color to reform our political, judicial and economic system with equity.
- We acknowledge the historical and continued oppression of women, people of color, LGBTQ communities, immigrants and refugees, and low-wage workers and the poor and the intersectionality of our struggles. We are committed to growing our movement in a way that leads to the liberation of all oppressed communities.

- We believe leadership and teamwork can uplift immigrant and refugee communities most impacted by unjust policies and systems.

### **Immigrants in New Mexico**

Immigrants make up 1 in 10 New Mexicans, and about one-third of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. “New Americans”—immigrants and the children of immigrants—account for 5.9% of registered voters in the state. Immigrants are not only essential to the state’s economy as workers, but also account for billions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power. Moreover, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$24.9 billion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$7.6 billion and employed more than 60,000 people at last count. Immigrant, Latino, and Asian workers, consumers, and entrepreneurs are integral to New Mexico’s economy and tax base—and they are an electoral force with which every politician must reckon.

## **POLICY PLATFORM**

### **Low-Wage Workers and Working Families**

Immigrant workers and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by low wages, exploitation in the workplace, and poor working conditions. The City of Albuquerque must strive to:

- **raise the current minimum wage to a competitive living wage.** Every working person deserves to be paid fairly and fully for their labor. A living wage is a wage that adequately provides food, housing, utilities, transportation and health care.
- **ensure that all workers earn paid sick leave-** New Mexico has one of the lowest rates of workers that earn paid sick leave in the nation. No parent should have to make the decision between sending a sick child to school and job/family economic security.
- **enforce labor laws-** In the U.S., businesses steal as much as \$50 billion every year to wage theft- plunging workers and their families further into poverty, stealing money from taxpayers coffers, and putting ethical businesses at a competitive disadvantage. 1:3 immigrant workers in New Mexico experiences wage theft. The City of Albuquerque must commit to creating a protocol by which workers’ wage claims are rigorously investigated, bad-apple employers are held accountable, and there is collaboration between county, state, and federal agencies.
- **reject programs such as E-verify.** E-Verify is an internet-based, error prone identification system run by the Department of Homeland Security that often leads to discrimination in the workplace and the unlawful termination of workers across the country. Albuquerque City departments should not use the voluntary federal e-verify

system to investigate or determine the work eligibility of applicants for City employment unless required by law for the purposes of administering a federal benefit or program.

- **support immigrant entrepreneurship.** New Mexico's 37,195 [Latino-owned](#) businesses had sales and receipts of \$6.5 billion and employed 50,021 people in 2007, the last year for which data is available. The state's 3,321 [Asian-owned](#) businesses had sales and receipts of \$1.1 billion and employed 10,739 people in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners. From 2006 to 2010, there were [11,440](#) new immigrant business owners in New Mexico, and they had total net business income of \$389 million.
- **invest and create scholarships and fellowship for youth.** Albuquerque loses much of its talent, commitment, and innovation due to lack of economic opportunities. The City should create incentives such as scholarships, internships, and fellowships to keep our homegrown leaders in New Mexico.

### **Keeping Albuquerque's Families Together**

Immigrants are currently being targeted, persecuted, and deported by the Trump administration. In order to protect our families, the City of Albuquerque must strive to:

- **pass non-cooperation policies to ensure that Albuquerque isn't complicit in the enforcement of Trump's federal deportation programs.** Complicity between ICE and local government and the criminal justice systems leads to racial profiling, pre-textual arrest, family separation, erodes an already tenuous relationship between the community and law enforcement, and has a chilling impact on the public safety of all of our communities.
- **ensure that that the City does not use resources nor seek funds** for any department and or personnel to identify, question or interrogate, detain, arrest, and/or transfer custody of immigrants, based on their real or perceived immigration status.
- **pass policies to ensure that ICE is not be permitted on non-public city property** without a judicial warrant (this includes the Prisoner Transport Center)
- **protecting the confidentiality of Albuquerqueans-** the City should create a policy preventing municipal employees, including local law enforcement, from collecting and sharing sensitive information with federal agencies.

### **Immigrant Integration:**

Meaningful integration of immigrants and refugees and can only be achieved when the City of Albuquerque commits to:

- **language access for individuals with limited English proficiency** by directing city departments to conduct an evaluation of their need for professional translation and interpretation services and

- **creating and implementing outreach and engagement plans and policies** to ensure that City services reflect the needs of immigrant and refugee communities and are provided in a culturally competent manner.
- **Designating resources to have private/public partnerships** to provide legal services to immigrant families, to provide accurate information and referrals regarding immigration issues, and to disseminate vital know-your-rights information at community center, libraries and other city-owned spaces that increase access to resources to the community.
- **taking measures to support policies and initiatives that benefit immigrant families (such as DACA) and efforts to promote naturalization efforts** in the form of public/private partnership between the City, community-based organizations, and business community, including provision of legal services for naturalization, promotion, in-kind support or provision of city space.
- **educating and committing to on-going training of employees and community members in Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression principles** to create a city that is a safe space for immigrants, refugees, and communities of color.
- **supporting safety and justice for crime victims** (including domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking victims, and other victims of crime). This can be achieved through teamwork and collaboration between the City and victim advocacy organizations by developing a written policy and investing more in prevention efforts, mental health services, shelter, transitional housing for victims of crime.