



# **ADELANTE** *Progressive Caucus* *Democratic Party of New Mexico*

## **Adelante Endorsement Questionnaire – 2024**

Return questionnaire to [NicoleBeautyWay@gmail.com](mailto:NicoleBeautyWay@gmail.com) no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

If you have any questions, e-mail caucus Political Director, Nicole Maestas-Olonovich, at [NicoleBeautyWay@gmail.com](mailto:NicoleBeautyWay@gmail.com)

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adriann Barboa \_\_\_\_\_

Position Running for Bernalillo County Commissioner District 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Website \_\_\_\_\_ adriannbarboa.com \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** What have you done in the past to advance progressive causes? If you're an incumbent include bills you **plan** on working on, in addition to what you might have already accomplished. If you've not held office, describe what your agenda would be and how it pertains to the progressive movement.

All candidates keep in mind our areas of interest include: halting climate change, redistributing wealth, engaging in anti-racist activities, passing stricter gun laws, advancing access to mental healthcare, addressing a living wage, canceling student loans, a moratorium on fracking, supporting better educational outcomes, demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, and curbing the militarization of this country. How would you bring these values to the position? There is no minimum or maximum length on your response. We want a good idea of your values, your ideology, and your accomplishments. Thank you.

Bernalillo County District 3 my forever home.

My Father was a welder and served as a Union Steward for his union for many years when I was a kid. I grew up in a Union home, where we often talked about workers' rights, due process and a seat at the table. In addition, as a community organizer, I have had the pleasure to work alongside Unions in the fight for Paid Sick leave on the Albuquerque Ballot.

In my four years serving as County Commissioner, I have learned so much from working with the unions that represent Fire Fighters, Corrections Officers at MDC, JPO's at our Youth Service

Center, AFSCME and other union representatives on important issues the county frontline faces.

I am a multi-generational New Mexican, and I am privileged to live in the home I grew up in and raised my kids in, which makes me deeply accountable to my district and the neighbors, schools and community that helped raise me.

I am a community organizer. I have been working for justice in and alongside the community since I was 15 and have made a career of fighting for access to quality affordable health care for all as well as ensuring New Mexicans continue to have access to abortion care, despite the overturning of Roe at the National level. Health justice by and for New Mexicans. In that work I have been able to lead efforts to pass paid sick leave, pregnant worker accommodations, access to reproductive healthcare including abortion, increase voting rights and led get out the vote work in rural working class communities across our state. I led the work to pass the Healthcare Affordability Fund (HCAF) and we are on our way to Medicaid Forward a true public option for healthcare for New Mexicans, I have personally been responsible for bringing thousands of community voices impacted by issues we are working on to their decision makers, that is what moved me to run for office, because our efforts and values have to be everywhere. In my non profit work and my work as a County Commissioner, I have made sure I hear directly from the community about the issues and solutions that are most important to our neighborhoods and put it directly to action. As a county commissioner I know that my job is to ask the tough questions, push our government to always strive to do better and my service so far has proven that I am not afraid to push our government or my colleagues to do what is right for our public health and safety.

Our public health and safety is my number one priority.

BernCo Commission District 3 is a beautiful and vibrant community, it is the most densely populated and most racially and economically diverse district in Bernalillo County and the state of New Mexico. The population density means more need for public safety officers, fire, law enforcement, highest rate of police calls for service, and the closer proximity to each other empowers my advocacy for the need for reliable public transportation.

District 3 is also home to a growing number of unsheltered individuals and at the same time we are the hub for a bulk of public and private resources available for people struggling with substance use, and mental health needs.

Since taking office in 2021 I have been working hard to create a coordinated system of care that meets the needs of our community, increases access to resources, and appropriately shifts the work of behavioral and mental health away from law enforcement and into services, as well as out of our streets

## **Public Health and Safety Accomplishments and plans forward**

### **Starting with our services.**

When we address the needs of those most impacted then we all do better. Through the voter passed Behavioral health tax, the county continues to have the most resources in the state for behavioral health, we must be good stewards of that money to ensure that we are progressively moving toward improving the quality of life, not just status quo services that mill people through.

When I started at Commission, our Cares Campus was turning away over 150 people a month seeking care. Our resource re-entry center, that receives all individuals exiting our County jail, MDC, and our own county facilities and programs were not communicating, sharing or working together, much less working with community non-profits or local organizations. Since then I have been able influence our facilities by changing our criteria for admittance, hours of availability and training on trauma informed care, requiring a higher bar for the model of care and our unique position in building a system of care for the entire county. Since then;

- Cares Campus (known to many as MATS, Metropolitan Addiction Treatment Services) has opened what they call an observation unit, low barrier access for people to detox, have a safe place to be overnight as well as access to case management and peer support, and recovery housing, should they want it. , if there is someone we cant provide care for then our staff is providing not only the referral information but offering transportation to other facilities for care instead of turning them back to the streets
- The Resource Re-Entry program previously was only open from 9-5, even though the first MDC drop off happens at 2pm and every four hours after, I have pressured our programs to be the change and now Re-Entry is open 24/7.
- Tiny Home Village (THV) - previously was empty because County admittance policies took a penal approach, requiring drug test to prove folks were 30 days clean, and other policies that were not meeting the entry needs for what its original purpose was intended, housing and programing for our unsheltered. This was my first project, I worked to gather community organizations that have been doing transitional housing work and together we set new admittance criteria as well as provide a framework of trauma informed care for which they can build policies for the Village. Now the county contract for care at THV is UNMH Community Health Workers bringing a patient centered approach rather than a penalties approach to our care and now we are consistently 90% full with regular rhythm of people transitioning out to more permanent housing.
- BCSO has long had Crisis Intervention teams and LEAD officers, which are Law Enforcement programs meant to meet the frontline behavioral health needs with services rather than incarceration. My attempts to increase BCSO participation in these programs with the previous Sheriff fell with great opposition. I am happy to say the relationship with Sheriff Allen has been a breath of fresh air. Together we prioritize funding for Social workers on the CIT teams, added incentives and accountability to LEAD officers working the program and he himself engaged BCSO officers in building relationships with our Cares Campus so BCSO can depend on our county services as a true alternative to incarceration of individuals

when appropriate.

- Fire teams have long been the frontline for people experiencing trauma including overdose, substance and mental health needs. I have worked with Fire to advocate for their fleet, equipment and staffing needs.
- Crisis Stabilization Center opening this summer at North Campus and partnering with the COA to open the Sobering Center at the Gateway this fall are game changes for getting our folks the care they need. This is critical to meeting the needs, so law enforcement, fire and our emergency rooms are not the last stop for our folks, but a quick zero barrier handoff to care that is intended for them and has the medical and staffing capacity. This will stop the bottleneck that happens at our emergency rooms as well as decrease the number of individuals detoxing at MDC for lack of other resources.
- Youth Services Center (YSC) or Juvenile Detention Center - I have exposed the intolerable conditions at the YSC. I have been able to hold the county to providing safe, clean facilities; ending the excessive lock down status, having youth in cells for long periods of time, monitoring and demanding increase in educational hours, re-opening programs and access to educational activities and resources often provided by non profits in benefit to the facility, and requiring out of cell and outdoor time to be reported monthly. In addition I was able to expose and halt through legal order book banning that was occurring in the YSC and ensure laundry and meals were being on time for residents. My most proud in this moment was working with Stronger Together, a self formed group of moms, parents, grandparents of incarcerated young people to get them a seat at the table with our DCM of public safety so they can be making decision and holding our facility to the care they expect their children to receive in our facility. Lastly on this topic, exposing the conditions has brought to light the need to comply with the JPO to detainee ratio, and we increased our pay and recruitment efforts for staff of all levels.
- Deputy County Manager (DCM) of Behavioral Health - Previously our behavioral health department and functions and funding were scattered throughout the county, lacking strategy, expertise and even basic communications within and between our programs. In FY23 we passed a new DCM level position focused specifically on Behavioral Health. I am grateful that after a year long delay and distracting process, we finally hired for that position. After 6 months of in action, I took action to become a "liaison" to the hiring process of this position, voted in on a four to one vote, I have since had attacks in the forms of ethics complaints and attacks on my character, for doing this work. All formal allegations have been dismissed or deemed "De Minimis"/not worthy of any action or follow up by our ethics committee. These attacks, while distracting and disheartening, have not stopped my drive to hold the county accountable to holding our responsibilities in the public health and safety work to its highest standard and fulfilling our much needed "piece to the puzzle" in fighting crime and increasing public safety.
- Behavioral Health Ordinance - building off the recommendations from the Behavioral Health working group, Commissioner Olivas and I released, this week,

our co-authored, co-sponsored Behavioral health ordinance which is comprehensive legislation that reorganizes our Behavioral health departments, funding and structure.

### **Collaboration is Key**

County & City working together is necessary if we are really to make an impact to improve quality of life and overall public health and safety in Bernalillo County/ABQ. A system of care requires that we have a clear analysis of the landscape, coordinated services and programs that leave no closed door for the hundreds seeking services through our major entities including our county hospital, UNMH, non profit providers with expertise on prevention, intervention, treatment, housing, front line officers and workers and courts and corrections. I currently serve the following board and commissioners to achieve this goal:

- KeepNMAlive.com - my strongest and most valuable work has been working with families directly impacted by the opioid crisis. Together we have formed Keep NM Alive, a group of families who have lost a loved one, or currently have a loved one in active use or in active recovery. I have been able to provide training on communications, narcan administration training for trainers, a bi-monthly space for these families to gather and bring solutions to the crisis. Since formation they have attended hundreds of events spreading awareness and education, handing out Narcan and access to resources, as they put it, "pain to purpose". While I love that they are finding healing in this work, they are also providing invaluable information to the County on how to support families that are the caregivers and first call from people suffering through substance use. Together we have formed the KeepNMAlive.com website, built to be a resource to other parents and loved ones that need easy access to resources that relate to their experience. We have done a full on public awareness campaign, with videos of moms sharing the story of their loved ones on local tv stations with both earned and paid for media, billboards, bus boards, a statewide summit, workshops for community, businesses and targeted audience in partnership, and a screening of "while the world is sleeping" a local film screening to engage community.
- ABCGC+APS board - originally the Behavioral health vetting board, serving as chair last year and vice chair with Councilor Nichole Rogers as our new Chair, I have utilized this board to bring larger awareness and elected officials engagement in building a system of care our public is desperate for and deserves.
- Opioid Settlement Funds - Pharmaceutical companies have been found to have intently targeted vulnerable communities with over distribution of opioid prescription drugs. Three of the top five locations in the nation are here in NM, one in Espanola and two in Albuquerque, because of that the city and county will be receiving over \$147 Million dollars over the next 7-12 years. Through our relationship on the ABCGC board and with Commissioner Olivas we passed a joint resolution with the City to hold off any spending of the combined resources until we have a plan that can progress with resources and accountability to the system of care that meets the needs of individuals and their loved ones. This is a

one time opportunity to build the infrastructure, the programming, the training and staffing needed to truly progress our county and how we address mental and behavioral health needs impacting our overall public health and safety.

- Behavioral Health working group - last year we passed a resolution that created a behavioral health working group. The group included City, UNMH, Courts, and community Behavioral health professionals, as well as County staff and was facilitated to meet the task of setting forth recommendations on how to effectively and collaboratively build an ecosystem that work together for the greater good. The recommendations were adopted and are being implemented.
- MDC Healthcare contracts is one of the biggest budget items in the County Budget, since I have been here we transitioned two National Healthcare providers that failed us greatly and were never in compliance with their contract provisions and scope of work, after the last one announced its 90 day departure, I was quick to re-engage the conversation of UNMH taking on the contract. This official merger has already made great strides in the care we provide at MDC. Since UNMH had already been servicing the failed healthcare at MDC, this merger makes the best of sense, as UNMH success at MDC will decrease the overcrowding of services at the Hospital. This merger has already been successful in bringing forth UNMHealth and Sciences center to establish a study on Comprehensive Substance Use Plan, as well as brought to light the needs at MDC that have been left hidden in previous contracts.
- The University of NM South Campus Development TIDD - a much needed boost to South East Albuquerque. State, City and County collaborated on this Tax Increment District (TIDD) which means retail, restaurants and affordable housing, student housing, a commitment to a grocery store in our food desert. This new funding structured collaborative TIDD includes the creation of over 1000 high tech jobs through the new science technology park, and many more jobs in the businesses and construction of the development.

### **Housing is a public health & safety issue**

Everyone knows we are in a housing crisis, my own son and his wife, no dependents, are struggling to make their monthly rent of \$1200 in a STUDIO Apartment. The Commission has taken positive steps to chip away at the problem and I have taken great measures to ensure supportive housing for veterans, unsheltered, people seeking recovery and people in recovery as well as housing for individuals re-entering society from incarceration.

BernCo Land banking and building of a Community Land Trust. Working with East Central Ministries (ECM) and Vizion Sankofa, community partners in the International District to gain \$1.5 million in State Capitol dollars, and followed by \$2million from the Governor equaling 3.5 million, honored to sponsor and ensure County cooperation in the start to a planned and connected future Community Land Trust for SE abq and the State Fair corridor. This funding is just the start to a district wide transformation of community owned land trust that spans the area and connects community. This Land Trust will be owned by the community and has a vision of sustainable long term housing structures that build wealth for individuals and families while also sustaining the “affordability” of the

housing beyond one owner. ECM has experience with cooperative housing as well as energy efficient, re-use housing ideas that think outside the box of development building apartments. This will include a range of housing opportunities for a range of incomes including unsheltered neighbors, mixed use, and the many people and families struggling with high housing costs.

Wellness Hotels - In my first year and every year after I have served on the Homeless Coordinating Council, a powerful body that includes decision making level staff from COA, UNMH, Veterans Affairs (VA), and County. In 2021 I sponsored the county effort to open and run our first "Wellness hotel". Originally the County run Wellness Hotel was meant to be operated only during winter months to offer support from exposure to the elements. The pilot was so successful that it has continued and expanded services. Our county run wellness hotel is currently serving families with children now open year round and include wrap around services and transition to more permanent housing.

Endorphin Power Company (EPC) - Hopefully you have see the construction of their new section at the Endorphin Power Company, in my first year I was able to support the funding needed to expand their building and housing opportunities. EPC's history of using endorphins as a path to recovery, includes their beautiful campus that provides housing and wrap around recovery services, it is also a community hub for AA, NA, and all the various support groups. It has long been a place where people in recovery could explore building and creating things that they can sell and build a business around. The new building includes a commercial kitchen because community has asked for the ability to prepare food for vending, and need access to a commercial kitchen in order to be able to make their foods.

Source of Income Discrimination - partnered with AHCH to pass legislation that officially prohibits landlords from discriminating against applicants for housing based on their source of income.

Landlord incentive program - In passing the Anti Discrimination on Source of Income for housing vouchers, we heard form landlords that there are some times when their property is destroyed that the risk can be daunting to property owners. I worked with BernCo Housing department to pay for damage deposits and pay for damages done to properties if a voucher/assisted housing recipient left damage. We set the program up, so that in order for landlords to request this funding opportunity, they would have to agree to the county housing department to go in before the property is rented for inspection and documentation of the conditions of the apartment before rental. This is good because it increases transparency in "affordable" housing units and maintains the housing we need.

\$4.5 Million allocated for The Veterans Integration Center, a state of the art transitional housing campus with 42 beds for Veterans and Veteran Families. The development is high quality, includes green space, beautiful landscaping, jogging and walking paths, memorial gardens and benches, as well as a dog park. The VIC will have wrap-around support including Veterans recovery program, case management, and housing support to get the veterans or veteran

families in permanent housing. I worked with the Kirtland Community on a Good Neighbor Agreement between the VIC and the Kirtland Neighborhood association.

Passed the Mid Rio Grande Housing Collaborative - In response to the housing crisis. City and County signed a JPA on the housing authority.

COA Gateway and Gibson Health Hub - The Gateway is in District 3, and I have been able to appropriate over \$ 6 million in overall project; includes the Sobering center, and building renovations overall. Most recent allocation was over \$2million toward the development of the Housing Navigation Center, to increase access to housing for people receiving care at the Gateway.

### **Environment is a public health & safety issue-**

Pollinator project pilot and expansion - Since 2021 I have been funding the Pollinator Project in my district. North Campus area resident Terry Detwilder came to me asking for small funding to support her vision to plant more pollinator plants to not only save our bee/pollinator insects, but to also conserve water, and support sustainable green/open space. They handed out pollinator plants and provided support and education to their neighbors on the importance of pollinators and the conservation benefits of moving away from gravel and on to pollinators.

Pilot project has been so successful they are expanding their vision to serve a greater purpose in our urban areas and are using census tracts to plant pollinators - research shows that green and open spaces, access to nature and plants supports mental health and things like anxiety, when we start with densely populated areas we can bring down the tensions and increase quality of life for our working class neighborhoods.

Urban Gardening - I have been able to support the Semillas project to do specific outreach in the International district to build urban gardens, meeting our urban neighborhoods with tools and ability to work “with what the have” some may need to build raised beds, or vegetable gardens in pots on their porch or apartment balconies, pollinators

KAFB bulk jet fuel clean up - I live adjacent to the KAFB and have been actively engaged and support funding for water monitoring wells, and work closely with the Water Utility Authority (WUA) to be informed and take action as needed. I currently serve on WUA board,

Air Quality Control Board - When republican councilor Dan Lewis passed legislation dissolving the CABQ/BernCo Joint Air Quality Board, the commission moved quickly. We were able to file suit and won against his move to disband the board. He was moving to do this so that developers could avoid the Air Quality regulations set forth by the board.

Solar - Supported large scale solar manufacturing at Mesa Del Sol, Maxeon will produce solar power manufacturing and ensure hundreds of quality jobs to the area.



Alley Way pilot project - following the community vision set forth in the BernCo Urban Ag strategic plan, and honoring the life work of Reyna Luz Juarez, I am piloting an AlleyWay Access project. Reyna Luz's vision stated that in our densely populated, high traffic area, communities' access to play and outdoors is limited. Kids in high traffic neighborhoods can't ride their bike in the street or play ball, etc. The pilot has started in the Mile High neighborhood. One alleyway has already had great success, engaging the neighbors to clean up and fix their alleyway to be used as a community connecting space. The County provided resources and assisted with clean up and supplies, the outcome has been greater than expected. The neighbors did surveys pre and post and all respondents have said that they; feel safer, and that it increases the quality of life in the neighborhood, even those who said they don't actively use the alley way. The success of this project has meant that we can pick a couple more alleyways and we are working with the Elder Homestead neighborhood for our next alley ways.

### **Culture and the Arts as public health & safety**

Prevention intervention, treatment and recovery needs the arts. Research proves that art and engaging people in recovery in art programs has been an important aspect of their success and healing. Prevention research shows that when we give young people access to the arts they are less likely to engage in substance use or criminal activity.

- I have provided four years of funding for the Flamenco Institute to offer free flamenco classes and free performances at five community centers, one in each of the five districts, as well as an additional set of classes in District 3 at the International District Library. The performance in my district is held annually at the VA memorial park on Gibson and Louisiana, bringing arts and performance to that beautiful under utilized space in the middle of the International District.
- Two years support of Mariachi Spectacular to work in local schools to provide free Mariachi classes and performances in our most needed communities.

**Endorsements:** I am proud to endorsed by:

Senator/President Pro Tem Mimi Stewart

Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Senator Ortiz y Pino

Representative Gail Chasey

Representative Janelle Anyanonu

City Councilor Nichole Rogers

County Commissioner, Chair Barbara Baca

County Commissioner, Vice Chair Eric Olivas

Sheriff John Allen

IAFF, Firefighters Union