

Mayor Romero Launches Re-Election Campaign

Announces U.S. Senator Mark Kelly, Former Tucson City Council Member Karin Uhlich, and Community Leader Edna Meza Aguirre as Campaign Co-Chairs

Today, Mayor Romero officially announced her campaign for re-election for Mayor of Tucson. First elected to the Tucson City Council representing Ward 1 in 2007, Mayor Romero was elected to her first term as Mayor of Tucson in November 2019, winning more than 50% of the vote in a three-way primary election, and 56% of the vote in the general election. She is the first woman and the first Latina to serve as Mayor of Tucson, and the only Latina Mayor in the 50-largest U.S. cities. U.S. Senator Mark Kelly, former Tucson City Council Member Karin Uhlich, and community leader Edna Meza Aguirre will serve as co-chairs of Mayor Romero's re-election campaign.

"I am running for re-election to build on the tremendous progress we have made, and to continue the work to create a more economically vibrant, affordable, safer, and sustainable city where all Tucsonans can thrive," said Mayor Romero. "Despite the curveball the pandemic threw at our community, I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made in my first term. We have made historic investments in affordable housing, community safety, transportation and mobility infrastructure, climate action and environmental sustainability. We have set in motion long-term, transformative plans and strategic investments to lay the foundation for a stronger, more equitable city that will uplift future generations of Tucsonans."

Just three months into her first term as Mayor, the global COVID-19 pandemic struck. Mayor Romero was widely praised for her handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. She successfully took on Governor Ducey in implementing COVID-19 mitigation policies, including mask wearing during the height of the pandemic. Simultaneously, she launched new initiatives including the Tucson Million Trees Initiative, establishing the Community Safety, Health and Wellness Program and Equity Office, creating the city's first Housing Affordability Strategy for Tucson and making historic investments in affordable housing. She led the effort to pass Proposition 411 with 73% of the vote that will improve every neighborhood street as well as adding bike and pedestrian safety infrastructure in Tucson within the next ten years.

In addition, she has secured millions of dollars in grants from the federal government for public safety, transportation, affordable housing, parks and recreation, and water

infrastructure projects that would otherwise have fallen on the city budget and local taxpayers.

*“Tucson now has a louder voice at the local, state, and national level than we have ever had,” **continued Mayor Romero.** “And we are reaping the rewards of this strengthened position. During my first term, I have secured more than \$80 million dollars in grant funding from the state and federal government for a wide range of projects.*

“I am running for re-election because I love serving as your Mayor, we have accomplished so much and we have work left to do. Tucson is not immune to the economic trends and challenges that cities and employers throughout the country are facing. My priority during my second term will be putting our strategic plans into action while addressing the emerging issues facing our city, including keeping our community safe, affordable, and economically prosperous.

“We need experienced leadership, evidence-based policies, and innovative solutions to tackle our most pressing challenges. It has been the honor of my life to be entrusted by Tucsonans to serve as Mayor of our beautiful city. I am asking Tucson’s voters for their support in re-electing me to be their Mayor.”

Key accomplishments since taking office:

Mobility/Transportation

- Led the passage of Prop 411 to improve every neighborhood street over the next 10 years and invest \$150 million in multi-modal projects to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists
- Secured millions of dollars for infrastructure projects, including \$25 million grant to rebuild the 22nd Street Bridge
- Kept public transit free since the start of the pandemic, and currently exploring funding strategies to eliminate fares permanently.
- Led the charge to increase transportation options for Tucsonans, including the 15-mile Norte-Sur transit corridor.
- Fought for Tucson’s interests and secured greater voice and representation on critical committees on the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Sustainability/Water Security

- Launched the Tucson Million Trees Initiative to increase tree canopy citywide, starting with the most heat vulnerable neighborhoods.

- Created and implemented the City's EV-Readiness Roadmap to promote clean air, accelerate clean energy, and make Tucson a hub for green businesses.
- Passed EV-ready requirements for new residential, multi-family, and commercial developments, saving future taxpayers the cost of expensive retrofits while combating climate change.
- Secured funding for what is now the largest electric bus fleet of any city in the Southwest.
- Successfully advocated for millions of dollars from the state and federal government to assist with PFAS remediation efforts and protect Tucson's long-term water supply.
- Spearheaded multi-jurisdictional efforts to preserve water in the Colorado River.
- Created the Los Reales Sustainability Campus, converting what was a landfill into a community resource and energy producing hub to fuel our transit fleet.

Housing

- Led in the creation and implementation of the City's first Housing Affordability Strategy for Tucson (HAST) plan
- Brought Milagro on Oracle, the City of Tucson's first LITECH project to Tucson adding 63 units of senior housing.
- Passed an ordinance allowing for greater availability of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), increasing Tucson's affordable housing stock.
- Oversaw the distribution of more than \$53 million in federal rental assistance funds, supporting more than 9,800 households in Tucson and South Tucson.
- Created the Unsheltered Homelessness Task Force which implemented the Homeless Encampment Protocol and Reporting Tool
- Hired the Housing First Program Manager and housing outreach workers who travel to homeless encampments throughout the city and have helped connect unsheltered individuals to housing and wrap-around services.
- As a part of the city's Housing First approach, converted previously vacant motels and hotels to low-barrier, transitional shelter.
- Led in passing an ordinance prohibiting discrimination against tenants based on their source of income

Community Safety, Health, and Wellness

- Created the new Community Safety, Health, and Wellness program - hiring a program manager and a team of care coordinators.

- Led in the effort to Transform 911 which included creating a 311 system that puts the right work in the right hands, including reducing the call load on officers, increasing efficiency and response times and connecting callers to the appropriate resources.
- Passed historic investments in pay for first responders
- Prioritizing funding for 100 positions for TPD officers and 50 created new positions for Community Safety Officers.
- Secured funding for mental health and wellness services for first responders
- Added critical public safety infrastructure, including new fire stations, police vehicles, and an investment of over \$8 millions dollars to revamp our 911 call center
- Passed one of the first ordinances to protect abortion access and reproductive healthcare
- Hired the City's first Chief Equity Officer to promote equitable policies, practices, and delivery of city services to our community.
- Reinstated the City of Tucson's Summer Youth Employment Program

Economic Development

- Consistently produced budget surpluses and overhauled the city's public safety pension system, saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars over the next decades.
- Helped attract cutting-edge companies and major employers to Tucson such as TuSimple, and the American Battery Factory, which will add up to 1,000 jobs to the local economy in the coming years.
- Created the City of Tucson Small Business Program which added a Program Manager and Small Business Navigators to support our local small business community and entrepreneurs.
- Hired the city's first International Trade Specialist to attract international investment to Tucson.
- Oversaw the distribution of \$96 million from the federal CARES Act and \$137 million from the American Rescue Plan including support for local businesses, non-profits, art and entertainment venues, and community organizations.

Learn more at www.VoteReginaRomero.com.

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