

News: Ken Miyagishima to seek re-election as Las Cruces Mayor

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Contact: Ken Miyagishima (575) 571-2440
mayorkenlc@gmail.com

Ken Miyagishima has announced that he will seek re-election to a fourth term as Las Cruces mayor.

“Las Cruces just keeps moving forward,” Miyagishima said. “I’m proud of our council and city staff, and especially our residents, for all we’ve accomplished. It’s an exciting time to serve as our mayor.”

Miyagishima pointed to the many changes that have taken place since he’s been in office.

“When I was first elected the main issue was growth and development, and whether Las Cruces could grow in a way that maintained our rich culture and community ties. We went through a contentious time during the minimum wage battle and negotiated a national financial crisis, but through it all we came together as a community. We have continued to believe in ourselves and our future, and now see the fruits of that commitment all around.”

A new Civic Plaza and active downtown, an Aquatic Center and planned regional swimming complex, improved sports and recreational facilities, the construction of a new animal shelter, an expanded system of walking and biking trails, and the largest street repair and maintenance initiative in the city’s history are among the more visible achievements that Miyagishima cites.

He also highlighted the city’s fiscal discipline, a strong bond rating, and savings through reduced energy costs as important factors in the city’s success, along with a commitment to openness and transparency in governance.

“We owe it to our residents to be good stewards of our public resources,” Miyagishima said, “and we have counted on robust public input to guide the decisions that we make.”

He said he is particularly excited about the city’s future, with the expansion of neighborhood-based programs like community schools, the region’s transition to renewable energy, and the development of city-owned land near the corner of Roadrunner Parkway and Lohman into open areas, a model residential neighborhood, and commercial space as an ongoing source of non-tax revenue for city operations.

Ultimately, though, Miyagishima says it’s the character and involvement of the community that convinced him to seek another term.

“Others have admired our rapid advancement as a city. But what makes Las Cruces special is our people: a warm and welcoming culture, an engaged business community and active advocacy groups, respect for one another and a helping hand for those in need. I’m honored every day to serve as our mayor.”

The son of Mike Miyagishima and Catalina Gallegos, Miyagishima grew up in Las Cruces, where he attended the Las Cruces Public Schools and New Mexico State University, graduating with a degree in Business Administration. He served on the Doña Ana County Commission and on the Las Cruces City Council before becoming mayor in 2007.