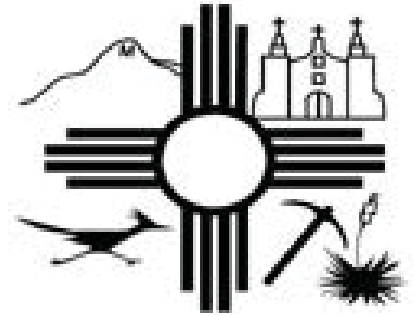


# City of Socorro

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## About the City Election...

Thirteen candidates have filed for the March 2 City election for Mayor and for four City Council positions. Some of the candidates are familiar: they either are serving currently or have served in the past. But what about those candidates you don't know? Could you vote today and make an informed choice?

If not, there's still plenty of time to do your homework: read the papers, attend City Council meetings, talk to others. Learn where the candidates stand on the issues and what projects or potential projects they feel are most important.

Here's who is running for City Council:

- Sammy Pino, Noah D. Jaramillo, Jean Louis Fraissinet, Nick Fleming and Harold Baca for the seat currently held by Chuck Zimmerly who is not seeking reelection;
- Incumbent Gordy Hicks will face George I. Foulfont;
- Incumbent Ernest Pargas, Jr. faces Joe L. Torres and David Locklar;
- Donald Monette is running for another term unopposed.

Incumbent Mayor Ravi Bhasker will run against Mark A. Santomenna.

Regardless of where you live in the city, you may vote for all council positions in this non-partisan election. If you won't be around on election day, or you don't want to stand in line to vote, you can vote by absentee (request a ballot from City Hall starting January 26) or drop by and vote early starting February 10 at City Hall during normal hours. Absentee

and early voting end Friday, February 26. If you have questions call Stephanie or Bobbi at 825- 0240.

## If We All Work Together...

*We can have a new High School Girls' Softball Field!* With the City, County and Socorro School District all facing budget challenges, they are stretching their resources by collaborating on projects common to all three. A case in point is the new High School Girls' Softball Field. The City received a \$60,000 grant from the State (the Local Government Division) to build a youth baseball field. By building the field at the High School, the Lady Warriors will be able to host games with a home field advantage. During the summer, Socorro's youth baseball program will use the field. The high school girls' team has been playing at Sedillo Park, but it is a multi-use park. Now the girls' team will have a home of its own and summer youth will have one more field for their use.

*We can have a "cool" new surface on the High School track!*

For more than 5 years the Socorro track team has had to travel to every meet because their track was inadequate. In 2009, Socorroans passed a bond to renovate the track. The upgraded Socorro High School Track will have new runways for the high jump and pole vault, a new pit for the pole vault, new striping and a new polyurethane finish for the track surface. The original plan called for the least-expensive black finish. The City Council voted unanimously to kick \$8,000 into the project to add a red clay color to the finish to dissipate heat during the summer months.

"We (the schools) don't have the heavy equipment and man-power," acknowledges Anton Salome, Asso-

ciate Superintendent for the Socorro School District so they are happy for the City and County to help. The track should be ready for the first track meet in 2010, and usable all summer long.

*We can have a “spiffed up” playground and basketball court at West Place Park!*

South of the Cottonwood Charter School is another point of collaboration: the West Place Park. The basketball court was recently chip sealed, with Blue Collar Construction loaning equipment and labor, Holly Oil (in the form of Mo Moabed) donating the oil and the New Mexico State Highway department donating the use of the road roller to compact the chips. The City plans also to redo the sprinkler system and replace the ditch with a culvert to make access easier for classes from Cottonwood Charter School.



West Place Park.

## 911 Dispatch Center Remodeled

The Socorro Dispatch Center is undergoing remodeling: new tile, sheetrock, and paint. More importantly, new stations, new computers and an upgraded 911 system are in the works and should be completed by the end of February. The \$2 million grant for the entire project came from the State, and the project has been on-going for more than 6 years. The money covers the remodel as well as 911 addressing throughout the county. With new computers and software, the dispatcher will be able to see the 911-caller’s address if calling from a land line.

“One of my priorities when I came in [as Police Chief] was to get that finished, and it looks like it’s

about to be a reality,” says Police Chief George Van Winkle.

The department also received two new patrol cars and has enough stimulus money to purchase and equip an additional two cars.

## The Battle for Socorro

Civil War re-enactors will gather in Socorro February 26 through 28 to bring history alive for the public. The living history action will center around the fort and encampment near the Escondida bridge north of Socorro.

Friday evening’s activities begin with lantern tours of the fort, music by a Celtic string band and free old-fashioned root beer. Saturday will feature the Battle of Valverde, with skirmishing, troop buildups, lance charges, cavalry competitions, and field medical demonstrations. At 3 pm at the Garcia Opera House the City will host a Victorian Ladies Fashion Show and Tea Social (please RSVP 835-8927). The siege of Socorro will take place on the Plaza at 5 pm and the evening will end with a Fandango at the Opera House at 7:00. If you don’t know what a Fandango is, you’d better plan to go see for yourself!

At 10:30 Sunday morning, return to the encampment at Escondida for a final battle.

## Employee Anniversaries

**Jordan Martinez**

**25 years**

### City Council

**Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez**

**Gordy Hicks**

**Toby Jaramillo**

**Donald Monette**

**Michael Olguin, Jr.**

**Ernest Pargas, Jr.**

**Peter D. Romero**

**Chuck Zimmerly**

**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**Pat Salome, City Clerk**