

Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice Coordinating Council (CC) Voter Guide for 2026

When we put out the call to submit nominations, we asked candidates to draft a short statement of their qualifications that included the following:

- A blurb about why you love The Center
- Any relevant experience (i.e.: non-profit finances, including 990's, COROS reports, Quickbooks, legal work, non-profit outreach, non-profit policy-making, your experience in consensus building)
- Any information about your passions, interests and/or community work. In particular any specific information about the communities you are part of in Albuquerque
- Any contributions to the Center that you expect to share with the Coordinating Council

Below are the responses from our candidates.

Note about voting: We need a minimum of 5 Coordinating Council members and can have a maximum of 9, per our bylaws.

Alicia Rodriguez

Hello ABQ Peace and Justice Community,

My name is Alicia Rodriguez and I am the current Chair of the Coordinating Council. I am nominating myself again for the 2026-2027 term.

I first joined the CC in 2024 after volunteering at the front desk and helping with Peace Cafe on Thursdays. In my work as the Chair of the CC, I facilitate meetings and complete many administrative tasks that an Executive Director would typically do. This includes work to ensure that our non-profit is in compliance with IRS regulations, state laws, and city ordinances. I have also organized annual events at the center such as the Yard Sale to fundraise money for operating costs, and the December holiday potluck to celebrate end of year accomplishments.

I have co-facilitated several subcommittees such as the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee and a Subcommittee focused on the procedures of front desk volunteers.

If elected for a third consecutive year, I will continue our work on succession planning to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the ACP&J for years to come. We want the membership lists, the financial reports, and the policies to be easily transferrable to future Coordinating Council members.

I'm incredibly thankful for the space the ACP&J has provided for peace activists and organizers in and around Albuquerque over the decades, and I am excited to be a part of the new generation providing guardianship for this space. The importance of an organization such as ours is not to be understated during this increasingly hostile political climate. I am grateful for everyone I have worked with over the past two years and look forward to continuing building a peace movement together.

In Solidarity,
Alicia Rodriguez

Che Olavarria Gallegos

I've been a member of the Coordinating Council of the ACP&J for two years. In this time, I have led the effort to bring technological advancements to the Center, including in the areas of security, membership, outreach, and finances.

I am the Treasurer of the CC, and in this role, I have hired a CPA, and I'm working hard at getting our finances up to industry standards. I work with two other volunteers who are helping overhaul our finance processes and ensure our compliance with the 501c3 paperwork.

I am proud to be part of the opening of our internal processes. For me, one of the primary benefits of this is the resilience this brings to the Center. At this point, we have a nice core of people who show up to policy subcommittee and CC meetings, and outreach and fundraising are also done by volunteer committees.

If elected for a third year, one of my primary focuses will be to ensure the ACP&J will be able to persist into the future regardless of who's on the CC. I will continue to support work on getting operational policies in place, maintaining compliance with city codes, digitizing operations, cleaning out the office space for rental, and saving money to hire a Center Director.

As for why I love the Center -- the ACP&J is what keeps me going most days. I have differing opinions with people on the board, volunteers, and members. But it is times like now, when we see the rise of fascism in the US, that I love the Center. For all the disagreements we have, every member here does more in a month for whatever cause they champion than what most people do in their whole lives.

Larry Kronen

I am nominating myself to continue as a member of the Coordinating Committee (CC) of the Albuquerque Centre for Peace and Justice. I have been a member of and active in the Center for over 30 years and I have been a member of the CC since June 2025 after several members left the Council. I attend the weekly, working meetings where I participate in the day-to-day decisions that make up the management of the Center. In addition, I attend the monthly CC meetings where policy for the Center are discussed and agreed upon. I am also on the policy subcommittee and the insurance subcommittee.

In recent years, prior to my role as CC member, I facilitated several member and community transitional CC meetings to help develop and direct the Center in times of conflict to reach resolutions on the direction of the Center. In past years, among other methods of contributing I participated in the food distribution program and have been a legal advisor to the Center.

I am a trained mediator and lawyer with a practice concentrating on children, families, and civil rights. I am also a trainer for the National Lawyers Guild Legal Observer Program and for organizations planning non-violent protests and civil disobedience.

The Center is an important institution in Albuquerque, providing a safe place for organizations and individuals working on peace and justice issues to meet, network, educate, and celebrate. I believe that it is imperative for the Center to continue to grow and continue in its roll and that I can contribute to that mission.

Luna Olavarria Gallegos

My name is Luna Olavarria Gallegos and I have served on the CC for two years. I am nominating myself to serve for a third year.

Throughout the past two years I have focused on expanding membership and standardizing processes at The Center for future coordinating councils. I have led many initiatives to this end, including drafting policy, organizing sub-committees to establish new processes, bringing in new organizations into our membership and creating our [Roadmap](#), which helps bring visibility and transparency into the CC work. I have organized several events that brought new visitors to the center and in many cases converted them to members. My most substantial undertaking has been to organize our member list—converting multiple membership lists into one digital roster and ensuring that we have a method to update the list regularly.

I have also participated in bringing in a Volunteer Coordinator, Reem, who has successfully recruited volunteers for the front desk. I have overseen fundraising efforts for the Center, and I have contributed to safety policies, including an incident report form and investigation and resolution process.

I believe The ACP&J is the most important physical space we have in New Mexico for the anti-war movement in a time when we need more organized community building. I would be humbled and honored to continue my work to formalize processes and standardize systems. I believe this will strengthen the foundation of The Center so that it can adapt to the changes of our city and world, and continue to be a home for New Mexico organizers, veterans, and emerging activists.

Marcy Kostiner

Hello members of the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice,

My name is Marceline Kostiner and I am a current member of the coordinating council. I would like to nominate myself again for the coordinating council for the 2026–2027 term. When I first began involving myself in the center in 2024, it was to help with a small food program I'd heard about from friends called the Peace Cafe. I had been to a few actions around Palestine hosted at the center, but had never come to meetings or immersed myself in the work of the Peace and Justice Center. As one week of volunteering became two, I started to feel different about this little building I'd passed absently throughout my college years. I started to see this space as a part of me, as a part of my community. The center became my third space, where I could see friends and talk politics and action. In March of 2024, I joined the Coordinating Council on a whim and have immersed myself in the work. Besides navigating the "exhilarating" process of getting Peace Cafe licensed and permitted, I have undertaken general maintenance and upkeep work, including filling potholes, helping replace broken appliances, and consistently working to maintain a clean environment inside and out. I have also worked to network with other community groups to bring about increased community collaboration. With the help of my amazing colleagues, we've undertaken the monumental task of running the center everyday, including coordinating events, attending meetings, managing project logistics, and all the fun bureaucratic paperwork we sift through to keep the center in good standing.

Looking forward, we as a community have a goliath standing in front of us, and its name is creeping authoritarianism. The only way we beat this beast is with our best weapon: a strong community that looks out for each other and practices solidarity—not only when it's comfortable, but when it's the right thing to do. If I am elected to serve another term on this council, this will be my guiding light. My focus at the center will be community strength and protection. The more we show up for our community, the stronger the results. The more we stand up for those around us, the more others will stand with us. In this age of greed and isolation, we must resist with kindness and solidarity for one another. It's our greatest asset.

Mark Campbell

Mark is a Master's student in Latin American Studies and a Research Fellow at the Center for Southwest Research. Their research focuses on the Latin American left, specifically, Mark has been working in Colombia with former members of las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). Mark's thesis focuses on how FARC members organized mass hunger strikes while incarcerated, bravely contesting state control over political prisoners' bodies through severe demonstrations of bodily autonomy. Besides this, they have been active in fighting for divestment from Zionist apartheid and genocide at UNM. Mark was a proud member of the Palestine Solidarity Encampment, and served on the encampment spokescouncil directly negotiating against the UNM administration to divest from Israel. These negotiations led to UNM making its investments public, revealing millions of dollars invested in weapons manufacturers and Israeli apartheid. Following this, Mark helped to recharter UNM Students for Justice in Palestine on campus, and served as co-chair of the student group for over a year. As co-chair, Mark also served as the UNM representative to the National Students for Justice in Palestine Assembly in Washington DC. Mark is seeking to join the Coordinating Council of the Peace and Justice Center in an effort to build a local broad-front coalition against imperialism abroad and domestic fascism. The P&J Center has been an invaluable asset and years-long staple in the Albuquerque community, and as neoliberal violence escalates across the country and the Third World, the Center's responsibility to build coalitions among our local left is more important now than ever.

Mervyn Tilden

From the Dine' (Navajo) Nation. Clans: Red Streak Running into the Water Clan and the Edge Water People. A life-long advocate for Indigenous Rights, Native American Sovereignty and Treaty Rights, Civil and Religious Rights for all people in the "United States of America" and Globally, the Free Press, Anti-War Activist and a long-time supporter and collaborator with the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice.

Photojournalist from 1996 to present.

Litigator for our Mother Earth (local to the federal levels).

Proprietor: Hozho Hogans ("Beautiful Homes"). Construction and repairs of homes; Landscaping; New business development and closeout. Former retail/business manager (23 years); all aspects and functions of business operations, planned and assigned work details, inventory control, active collaboration with local community and businesses, and government entities. Mission: Quality Customer Care. Objectives: Sales and profits. Free or Reduced Services/Fees to people in true need and 501 (c)(3) organizations with similar vision.

Videographer: Field and Studio productions. Musician.

2005: American Indian Journalism Institute

UNM: Tribal Court Advocate/Indian Law/Mass Communications ongoing pursuit.