

Short Introduction

Throughout his public service, from state senator to the first consecutive three-term mayor of Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, Tim Keller has challenged the status quo and developed a track record of real impact. He attended the University of Notre Dame earned an MBA with honors from Harvard. Keller was profiled as the “#MetalMayor” by the New York Times.

Local New Mexico Introduction Biographical Information

Born and raised in Albuquerque, Tim Keller brings focus and passion to creating a more safe, innovative and inclusive city. His leadership centers around the “One Albuquerque” unity vision, a clarion call honoring the city’s diverse heritage and championing residents from all walks of life. Now serving his historic third term as mayor of Albuquerque, he deeply believes in the power we all have to lift up our city, despite its challenges.

Keller’s zeal for public service comes from his willingness to challenge the status quo and his track record for having real impact. He strives to approach every day first as a listener, then as a problem solver, with a bias toward action. Since first being elected at age 29, he brings these authentic values to his efforts to shape a brighter future for our families. From state senator for the International District to state auditor to mayor of Albuquerque, he has tackled some of the biggest issues facing New Mexico.

In his personal time Keller, a former high-school quarterback, still enjoys the game and even played QB in Albuquerque’s professional indoor football team’s 2019 season opener. A heavy metal enthusiast, Keller was profiled as the “#MetalMayor” by the New York Times and has introduced a number of bands live on stage. Tim is an advocate for dyslexia awareness after being diagnosed and relearning various reading skills as an adult.

Out-of-State Introduction Biographical Information

Tim Keller is the first Albuquerque mayor elected to three consecutive terms since the city’s founding in 1706. Keller’s zeal for public service comes from his willingness to challenge the status quo and his track record for having real impact. First elected at age 29 as state senator, then as New Mexico state auditor and mayor of Albuquerque, he has tackled some of the biggest issues facing Albuquerque and New Mexico.

Prior to public service, Tim spent 15 years working with tribal governments and large companies. He also resided in Cambodia, where he ran the nation’s first technology company, bringing living wage opportunities to landmine victims and survivors of trafficking. Tim is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he studied art history before earning an MBA with honors from Harvard.

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Additional Biographical Notes

Public Policy Impact

- Redefining emergency response by creating nationally recognized first-of-its-kind Albuquerque Community Safety Department, sending trained professionals to nonviolent 911 calls, ensuring the right response for mental health, substance use, and homelessness matters, and freeing up police to focus on serious crime.
- Establishing the Gateway Center, helping 1,000 people per day, the largest investment for those experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental illness in state history.
- Investing \$200M+ in new parks, libraries, housing, splash pads, street lights, road repairs, and community centers in underserved and historic neighborhoods.
- Clearing the rape kit backlog, honoring survivors and providing justice.
- Leading the police department to reverse worst-in-the-nation crime rates through technology and civilianization, also managing the department's transformation and completion of Department of Justice mandated reforms.
- Expanding Job Training Albuquerque, which provides free upskilling to nearly 4,000 workers from 400 local businesses, which created over 1,600 new jobs and boosted local earning power by an estimated \$80 million.
- Championing local entrepreneurs, catalyzing small-scale investment in technology and innovation, and laying the groundwork for a growing quantum technology sector that's positioning the city nationally for next-generation research and development.
- Pushing climate change efforts that have placed Albuquerque in the top-five solar cities in the nation, aiming to be 100% renewable by 2030.
- Positioning Albuquerque as a national leader in clean energy by dramatically expanding solar power and sustainability initiatives, earning recognition as one of the top solar cities in the country.
- Building future landmarks and celebrated spaces like the Nuevo Atrisco community plaza, our "industrial cathedral" the Rail Yards, the Poole property open space, and the Rail Trail pedestrian parkway reconnecting downtown and Old Town.
- Expanding out-of-school and summer programs to 30,000+ kids.
- Leading Albuquerque through the COVID-19 pandemic and summer of racial reckoning with empathy, courage and conviction.
- Founding New Mexico's first Government Accountability Office as state auditor and exposing billions in misused or idle public funds.
- Passing the most bipartisan legislation of any member during his tenure as State Senate majority whip.
- And, ever the believer in "all things that make our city special," painting the city buses turquoise, adorning historic Route 66 with lights and launching a grant program to repair neon signs, hiring hundreds of artists to enrich our urban environment, doubling the number of dog parks, and bringing back public drinking fountains and bathrooms.

Accolades and Fellowships

Keller is a Kellogg Foundation leadership fellow, cohort of 2015; Aspen Institute race equity program graduate, 2009; Rodel Fellow in nonpartisan leadership, cohort of 2019; Henry Toll fellow in the Council of Governments leadership program, 2012; Eagle Scout; certified fraud examiner; Bloomberg Harvard Program, Civic Leadership, 2018; Leadership New Mexico, Core Program, 2010; 2022 Mayoral Leadership Award winner from the Latino Leadership Network; 2019 NAACP Community Champion Award; 2010 E for Effort Award from the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce; 2025 recipient of the Americans for the Arts City Leadership in the Arts Award.

Publications and Cameos

His work during the pandemic was profiled in the book [City at the Crossroads](#), and his early career was the focus of the Harvard case study [Tim Keller at Katzenbach Partners](#). The Albuquerque Community Safety Department he launched was the subject of the Harvard Business School case study [In That Crucible, You Find Innovation: Public Safety Transformation in Albuquerque](#) and is now serving as a model that other cities, including New York, are following to rethink emergency response and public safety. He also co-authored a Harvard Business School case study on art investing, [Fernwood Art Investing](#). Keller played “Mayor Tim” in the 2025 TV series *Pluribus*.

Public Leadership

Keller is currently an elected trustee for the United States Conference of Mayors and a director in the New Mexico Municipal League. He was appointed to serve on the board of directors for the Democratic Mayors Association, sits on the board of directors for ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA and serves on the advisory board for Climate Mayors.