

Ana Valdemoros

Candidate for Salt Lake City Council

District 4



1. Introduce yourself to our members. Describe your relationship to the Central Wasatch Mountains. What's your favorite place to visit? What are your favorite activities? What do you find compelling about the Central Wasatch Mountains?

I'm Ana Valdemoros. I'm running for re-election to continue representing District 4 on the Salt Lake City Council. Out of 21 applicants, the Salt Lake City Council unanimously appointed me to replace Derek Kitchen in January 2019. My experience in public city planning, community based economic development in the non profit world, in the private sector as small business owner, and my extensive knowledge of Salt Lake City is what set me apart from the other applicants.

I grew up in the sparsely populated Patagonia region of Argentina. Given its amazing beauty, it is impossible to be born there and not have a love of the outdoors. I enjoy running, swimming, and skiing with my family.

The Central Wasatch Mountains are compelling to me because of their proximity, the large range of activities available so close to home, and the

effective management of the canyons, which has preserved them for the many residents of Salt Lake City to enjoy and find inspiration.

2. In your mind, what are the most important issues facing the Central Wasatch Mountains today?

I started my career in city planning with Salt Lake City, where I worked on various master plans and projects. Salt Lake City and the surrounding areas are headed towards substantial growth. As a city planner, this growth is on the forefront of my mind. Such growth will undoubtedly impact the watershed and other natural resources. Salt Lake City must continue to work hard with our regional partners to implement sustainable practices, responsible water usage, and the reduction of carbon emissions.

3. Transportation. What are your thoughts about UDOT's plans for reducing traffic congestion in Little Cottonwood Canyon? How much do you think this plan should try to

reduce congestion by increasing the number of cars that the highway and parking areas can handle versus some form of public transit that reduces reliance on cars?

As a city planner, sustainably building our community has been my passion. UDOT's plans for reducing traffic congestion in Little Cottonwood Canyon are similar types of plans I worked on for Salt Lake City. These projects included the Westside Master Plan and the North Temple Grand Boulevard plan in anticipation of the Airport TRAX line that opened in 2011. My team created the Transit Station Area zoning district that was implemented along North Temple and later along 400 South. Accordingly, I am very supportive of better planning and transportation management that emphasizes public transit and reduces reliance on cars to access our canyons and mountain ranges.

4. Public Lands. What are your thoughts with regard to the current Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area (CWNCRA) proposal and efforts to enact federal legislation to protect the Central Wasatch Mountains?

I am very supportive of federal protection of the Central Wasatch Mountains. I am very grateful for the time and energy invested to preserve and protect our watershed for us and future generations.

5. Recreation. Are you concerned that very high recreational usage is harming the environment(s) or degrading the experience of being in the canyons? What zoning, ordinance or policy decisions would you support to maintain a balance of recreational

use and habitat health and water quality in the Central Wasatch Canyons?

As our population grows, recreation use increases. This is concerning since these recreational areas are a limited natural resource. While I value the large range of activities available to the residents of the Salt Lake Valley, I believe that reasonable use restrictions must be implemented, such as limiting year-round use of some areas, to protect such recreational opportunities and our watershed for future generations.

6. Water policy. Utah cities have been granted authority to protect sources of drinking water under a provision called “extraterritorial jurisdiction.” In recent years this authority has come under attack by legislators, developers, and speculators seeking to diminish Salt Lake City’s ability to protect water quality. If elected, how will you insure citizens continue to have access to high quality drinking water while balancing other uses in our watersheds?

Because of our arid environment and growing population, the Salt Lake Valley constantly faces the challenge of ensuring sustainable water management. Salt Lake City’s policies protect the drinking water for more than one million people. Without strict regulations, the watershed could easily be polluted or completely depleted. Salt Lake City’s lasting legacy for our children is the protection of our precious water resources. When re-elected, I will continue working to defeat legislation that could weaken Salt Lake City’s watershed and undue two centuries of

effective watershed management. My children deserve as much.

7. Local Ordinance(s). What types of ordinances should be put in place (or revisited) to protect the environment, water quality, access, and integrity of the Central Wasatch Mountains?

Unfortunately, ordinances that protect the environment are constantly attacked in communities all over the nation by those who look to profit at the public’s expense. Fortunately, Salt Lake City does have some local ordinances that have been effective at slowing destructive development. However, if the City were to enforce them as written, so much more could be done. In addition to opposing any effort from local governments or the state legislature to weaken the local ordinances already enacted, I would emphasize enforcement of the ones already created. I will also support new laws and regulations that strengthen protections of the Central Wasatch Mountains.

8. Land Use Planning. The canyons are already very heavily used and, as you probably know, the population of the Wasatch Front is expected to double within several decades. What would you like the canyons to be like in fifty or sixty years, and what, if anything, do you think our government needs to do to make sure it will be that way?

This growth will add more pressure on the canyons. We must continue to work hard with our regional partners to implement sustainable practices so that the canyons will be inspiring

and enjoyable for many more generations. These partners include our very own residents, who we must educate and get actively involved in public land issues.

9. Is there anything else people should understand about your vision, plans, ideas, or policies for the Central Wasatch Mountains?

As a resident of Salt Lake City, a city planner, a small business owner, and a mother, I value open spaces, environmentally sustainable practices, places to play, water quality, and the valued assets that the Central Wasatch Mountains provide to our high quality of life. As the District 4 representative, I look forward to continuing to do my part to protect these things.

Save Our Canyons is a 501c3 non-profit organization. These questionnaires are provided for the benefit of our members and the community we seek to serve. We reached out to all candidates for the particular office and have provided responses un-edited as they were received, some candidates have opted to not respond. If you have questions about the responses, we encourage you to reach out to the candidate. If you have a comment about the questionnaire or a suggestion of others elected seats we should issue to, please reach out to Save Our Canyons. 801-363-7283, info@saveourcanyons.org