

## Letter of Intent

Morris B Pongratz  
900 Circle Drive  
Los Alamos, NM



I am interested in serving out the unexpired term of James Chrobocinski.

The following excerpt from John Donne's "Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, "Meditation XVII" describes my interest in public service:

*"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee."*

I last held elected office in 2007, but unlike General Macarthur's old soldier I have tried to not "fade away". I "really retired" from LANL on March 31, 2018 and find that I have time for more public service. James' vacancy presents an opportunity to intensify my community service in an area where I have knowledge and experience.

- Six times the voters elected me to represent them on the County Council.
- Combined with my four years' service on the Los Alamos Board of Education I have the knowledge gained from reviewing, modifying and ultimately approving 18 governmental budgets.
- In those offices I also have experience in negotiating with the Department of Energy to obtain financial compensation for the impact of the department upon our community.

This expression of interest has three parts: my recent involvement in the Los Alamos community, some highlights of my previous service as an elected official, and a Curriculum Vitae.

### **Recent involvement in the Los Alamos community**

It is important to know that a potential candidate is "well-grounded" in the community and exposed to input from a diverse citizenry. I have had a long-standing interest in the welfare of the youth of Los Alamos so most of my time has been spent working with our young folks. Along with Don Casperson and Kathy Boerigter I serve as Kiwanis Advisor to the Los Alamos High School Key Club. At our recent Southwest District Key Club Convention our students nominated me for and I received the "Outstanding Kiwanis Advisor Award". During the school year I meet with all the Key Club members weekly and with our student board of directors at least monthly.

For a number of years, I have been working with the United Way of Northern New Mexico by recruiting members for and assisting with the United Way Youth team. The

students produce several fund-raising events. They include "Dinner over Diamond", "High Tea on the Hill" and "Hamburger Nite". The money raised by the students is used to fund leadership programs at the high school.

I was a member of the 2005 Leadership Los Alamos (LLA) class. For a number of years LLA sponsored Los Alamos Youth Leaders (LAYL). I served as an adult Team Leader for that effort. LAYL students learned leadership by producing projects – learning by doing, not from lectures. In cooperation with the LAFD we produced the Homecoming bonfires. We also produced LA Wild Day where high school students organized a fun day for elementary school students. Tragically one of the members of my team committed suicide.

I have served as public address announcer for LAPS athletic events since the final Cumbres-Pueblo football game in the mid-80's. You have a great view of the action, but you only get to know the students via a number on their jersey, not personally. The high school athletic department named me to their Athletics Hall-of-Fame.

I am a charter member and member of the Board of Directors of the LAPS Foundation. With help from the LANL Foundation we formed the LAPS Foundation to make up for shortcomings in the funds available to provide excellent schools. Currently I serve as secretary to the board. Last year we celebrated raising and distributing over a million dollars to our public schools. I have also served on the Aspen Elementary Advisory Council. We worked with the architect to design the new building for Aspen.

I am a charter member and member of the Board of Directors of the Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum. It is a multi-denominational, 501 C(3) corporation formed to demonstrate the compatibility of faith and science. We present a series of talks on faith and science each summer.

I am a member of the Kiwanis Club of Los Alamos. I am also on the Kiwanis Board of Directors. Our community service includes the Fourth of July Fireworks, Breakfast with Santa, and a Christmas party for the foster children in our three-county region.

I have been a member of the Los Alamos Community Health Council (CHC) for several years. I did serve as vice-chair for a few terms. I also serve on CHC's Youth Resiliency Committee chaired by Kristine Coblentz. For many years I served on the county's DWI Planning committee. Once three of us went "bar hopping" to ask bar-tenders how to best reduce DWI offenses.

I have also served on two charter review committees. I am quite familiar with the charter.

I am a lector and eucharistic minister for my church. I used to work with our youth group but ran out of time.

## **Highlights of my previous service as an elected official**

Shakespeare's Antonio said "*What's past is prologue*" so my previous actions as an elected official may give some hint of my future service; however, a word of caution, I am/was fairly pragmatic in my decision making and changing facts must be recognized. In my first council term I was able to get the council to endorse the concept of county sponsorship of "social" (as opposed to athletic) recreation for our youth. Working with police detective Greg Talley, we got "Youth Working for Youth" (YWY) off and running. The idea was to combat drugs, alcohol and suicide among our youth with E.A.S.E. (Education, Alternatives, Sanctions and Example). I think that the resolution recognizing YWY as a county board got lost in a re-codification.

That first county council passed Los Alamos' first municipal gross receipts tax. While I was council chair in 1985 we approved the \$115 million electric generation bonds. We also approved the construction of the Larry Walkup Aquatic Center. Thanks to Sid Singer funding for the project came from back gross receipts taxes owed by the Zia Corporation; we got the DOE to acknowledge the obligation.

While on council in the 90's we entered into negotiations with the DOE and our congressional delegation regarding the assistance payments to the county. Los Alamos was the last local government getting assistance payments and annual renewal was a challenge for our delegation. We managed to get a "buy-out" of future payments. I believe that this money became our first major reserve fund. Working with the delegation we also managed to get the DOE to release land to the county. We also began our "self-sufficiency" efforts to include the building next to the TA-3 fire station.

While on council I was the county's representative on the National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR) Steering Committee. I also served on the New Mexico Municipal League's Self-Insurance board.

Near the end of my last term on council and during my service on the school board we worked to vacate the school and county properties on Trinity Drive. While on school board we got the process started, but it took the joint efforts of subsequent school boards and council to see the project through to fruition. The final result is the Smith's Marketplace and the Camino Entrada county/school facilities.

While on the school board we worked with the congressional delegation and especially Ed McGaffigan from Senator Bingaman's office to ensure continued DOE funding for our schools. While that support is not inflation-adjusted it comes through the LANL contract via the defense appropriations act and has stood the test of time. It is vital for our schools.

When I was on the school board I worked with Judge Alan Kirk to draft by-laws for the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB). We got the by-laws approved by the school board and the county council. I served as the first vice-chair for JJAB.

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## Curriculum Vitae

Morris B. Pongratz

900 Circle Drive

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Telephone: 505-662-2728 (H) 505-699-5312 (C)

e-mail: [mpongratz1942@gmail.com](mailto:mpongratz1942@gmail.com)

Married to Cheryl O. Fuchs in 1967

Property owned in Los Alamos: Residence at 900 Circle Drive (with wife Cheryl)

Two adult children: Karin Church and Dan Pongratz, one child died at 11 months.

### EDUCATION:

Ph.D. - Major in Space Physics, May 1972

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

BS - Majors in Physics, Mathematics and Philosophy, May 1964

Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

### EMPLOYMENT:

EG&G, Los Alamos – 1973 – 1975

Los Alamos National Laboratory – 1975-2018

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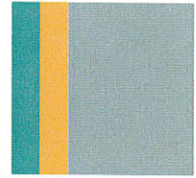


Brady Burke

2310 39<sup>th</sup> St, Apt C

Los Alamos, NM 87544

505-780-1001 brady@ecomputingsystems.com



May 28, 2018

Mr. Harry Burgess, County Manager

Los Alamos County

1000 Central Ave

Suite 350

Los Alamos, NM 87544

re: Letter of Interest to Fill Los Alamos County Councilor Vacancy

Dear Mr. Harry Burgess,

As Article II of the Los Alamos County Charter does not explicitly exclude candidates that are running for the office of County Council to fill a vacancy, I wish to submit myself as a candidate to fill the County Council seat, recently vacated by James Chrobocinski.

As a resident and a registered voter, I meet the qualifications to fill this vacancy.

I am both an interested and involved taxpayer and voter, which I believe are vital qualities for a council seat. Further qualifications include begin a small business owner, having participated on the Housing Authority Advisory Board and performing a managerial roll at EG&G Aerospace Division.

I am an ardent supporter of the taxpayers and voters of the County and believe that their wishes, as a majority, should dictate the direction and management of the County.

Sincerely,

Brady Burke



May 29, 2018  
In re: Open Council Seat

111 La Senda  
White Rock, NM 87547



Harry Burgess, County Manager  
1000 Central Ave, Suite 350  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Mr. Burgess et al,

I am interested in filling the County Council slot opened by the unfortunate necessity of Councilor Chrobocinski's resignation. I am both a resident and registered voter in Los Alamos County, and am not employed by the county, which seems to fulfill the minimum requirements.

Rumor has it there are also some unofficial prerequisites: a capable bladder, a natty wardrobe, and at least a competent barber. While I can outsit all but the very best, I have to confess I have no taste for clothes and my wife cuts my hair. On the plus side, this would certainly make the rest of the Council look better.

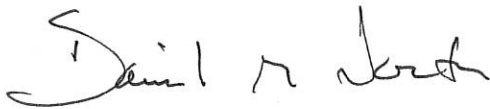
I earned my Journalism degree at San Jose State University when surprisingly thorough coursework in political science, economics, law were required. After that, newspaper work in Sonoma, California had me sitting through so many meetings that various county officials would regularly ask background and rulings from other offices.

After that my employment and subsequent business ownership led to departmental management, substantial budgeting, and included volunteer presidency of a nonprofit with over 300 members.

Of peripheral interest, throughout this time I was able to observe the development of two successful tourist destinations (Napa and Santa Cruz California) and materially participate in another (Sonoma).

But this is all pro forma. My actual primary qualification and interest in taking on the task would be unique on the Council: I live in, like, and pay close attention to what's happening in White Rock. Whatever other considerations you and the Council might have, I respectfully submit that some representation for the minority partner is paramount, whether me or someone else.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David M. North". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "David" being more prominent.

David M. North  
north@znet.com  
505 695-5808

Harry Burgess, County Manager  
1000 Central Ave, Suite 350  
Los Alamos, NM 87544



Dear County Manager Harry Burgess –

I wish to volunteer my name for consideration in filling the vacancy on County Council created by the recent resignation of Councilor James Chrobocinski.

Background:

I have lived in Los Alamos for just over 30 years. I arrived as a young unmarried woman fresh out of graduate school at UC Berkeley with degrees in nuclear and mechanical engineering. I was employed as a staff member in the field of computational physics in several divisions at Los Alamos National Laboratory for roughly 15 years. During that time, I met and married my husband in Los Alamos, and we have raised our family here. I have two children still at home: a soon to be junior at Los Alamos High School and a soon to be 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Los Alamos Middle School. I am also the mother of twin 24-year-olds. My father is retired career military and a former small business owner in Glendale, AZ. Working remotely from Los Alamos, I provided web development, graphics design, marketing, and analytics support for his business. At the present time, I do not hold a position of paid employment, and therefore have the necessary time to devote to the councilor position.

Qualifications:

My chief qualification is my past public service in Los Alamos. I have served one term each on the Los Alamos Board of Education and the County's Planning & Zoning Commission, including holding the presidency / chair positions for both of those bodies. I have also served as a board member for the LANL Foundation during its formative years and for Little Forest Playschool (including board president). As an engaged community volunteer, I have assisted regularly and frequently in the schools, coached youth sports teams, and volunteered for many various community organizations, events and initiatives over the last 20 years. My most recent service includes one year volunteering extensively with the Los Alamos Community Foundation and one year creating and nurturing Interfaith Los Alamos. Interfaith Los Alamos is a community-wide interfaith initiative enabling our community's many churches and congregations to work together across lines of faith to provide significant, coordinated assistance when need situations arise that are too big for any one individual or group to handle alone. To date, the primary focus has been helping refugees rebuild new lives after being recently resettled in Albuquerque.

As a result of my past public service as an elected and appointed official in our community, I have received extensive training on the role of a board (and commission) member. Such training is directly applicable to County Council service. I have valuable experience working cooperatively on policy-making bodies: I know how to make decisions and move forward when there is a diverse range of opinions, and in some cases intense controversy, involved. While a school board member, I helped preserve the Schools' annual \$8 million federal budget appropriation, pass school bond elections, and negotiate the



teachers' union contract. I was instrumental in the redevelopment of the property on which the current Smith's Marketplace now stands. While serving on Planning and Zoning Commission, I was heavily involved with the work to substantially update a former version of the County's Comprehensive Plan. I also served on the Variance Board (now Board of Adjustment). I am familiar with the Open Meetings Act, as well as Robert's Rules of Order and how Council meetings are conducted. I understand the importance of citizen input. I also understand the role of County staff.

This experience and background will allow me to step into the vacancy ready to serve. I may not currently know all of the details about the many activities in which Council is now engaged, but I am a quick study and I have the time to devote to the process. I pledge to be at meetings on time, having read the prepared materials, and ready to participate in a positive manner.

Politics:

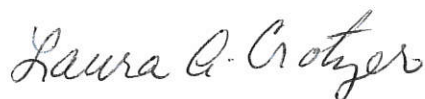
My current political affiliation is "Decline to State" (DTS). For many years I was registered as a Republican, but it was my experience that party affiliation had little or nothing to do with service on School Board or Planning & Zoning Commission. I believe in examining the issues and basing decisions on the best information available at the time, rather than being tied to any perceived political party platforms or stances. I recognize that a diversity of backgrounds and experiences is necessary on our governing bodies in order to achieve policy decisions that best support an entire community. If pressed to state my tendencies, I would say that I am a fiscal conservative who leans Republican. Much more importantly, I have no axe to grind and am not seeking this vacancy in order to push a personal agenda.

Motivations:

In closing, I am interested in this opportunity because I actually enjoy community service. Serving in public office is not always easy: there can be strong opinions, strong emotions, and strong personalities associated with the issues we face and the decisions that must be made. Nevertheless, I have found it rewarding to work together with others who feel similarly about public service and who are committed to engaging in the very processes used to ensure a vibrant community for all of our citizens and visitors.

Thank you for considering my qualifications. If I am selected to fill the vacancy, I look forward to this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Crotzer". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'L' and 'C'.

Laura A. Crotzer  
1950 Camino Durasnilla  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
[laura.crotzer@gmail.com](mailto:laura.crotzer@gmail.com)  
(505) 661-8513

24 May 2018

At this time I am available to attend the June 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. However, I am currently in possession of a "Summons to Jury Service" and must call every Friday evening after 5pm in order to determine whether I am free to make personal commitments the following week. I am assuming that even if I get called, I will still be able to make the 6 p.m. Council meeting, but I would like you to be aware of the situation. If I cannot make the 6 p.m. Council meeting due to jury duty, I understand that this will disqualify me from consideration.

*Laura*

## Salazar, Jacqueline

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**From:** Habiger, Julie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:25 PM  
**To:** Burgess, Harry; Matteson, Linda; Salazar, Jacqueline  
**Subject:** FW: Interest In Filling Vacant County Council Seat

Forwarding from the main web box. Jackie, please time/date stamp for receipt.

**From:** Aaron Walker [mailto:adwalker.usn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:50 PM  
**To:** LACManager <lacmanager@lacnm.us>  
**Subject:** Interest In Filling Vacant County Council Seat

Mr Burgess,

My name is Aaron Walker. I reside at 413 Pruitt ave. in White Rock. I am writing you to inform you of my interest to fill the vacant seat on the county council. I have always had an interest in getting involved with local politics, and am now at a point in my life where I finally feel ready to take that step.

A little about myself. I am 33 years old. I was born in New Hampshire, and lived up and down the east coast my entire life. At 16 I got my first job working for Walgreens, where I worked until I was 25. I was an Assistant Store Manager, responsible for approximately 50 people. I decided that retail management wasn't where I wanted to spend my whole life, so I started looking for better opportunities. I found the Navy, and was intrigued by the prospect of the training and career stability. I spent 7 years in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear electronics technician, so I moved around quite a bit. In my time in the Navy, I operated and maintained two nuclear reactors on board an aircraft carrier, serving during a nine month deployment to the Persian Gulf. I also managed a maintenance program that involved a budget of over one million dollars. This is quite a bit of responsibility for someone in their mid 20's to have. After the Navy, I had the opportunity to move out here to Los Alamos with my wonderful wife and two children. I got a job as an operator at LANSCE, operating the linear particle accelerator. We have lived here for about a year now, and love every minute of it.

I feel that there is a lot the county council does for this community, and I know that there is a lot more that can be done. I believe that I would bring a unique and much needed perspective to the council, as my views don't usually align with any one political party. I feel that the council should represent the people, and I would do just that. I would not necessarily vote on how I felt about topics, but how the public feels about those issues. I would encourage an open dialogue between people of different viewpoints to see if common ground can be found on hot button topics. This is why I would love to be a part of the county council.

Thank you very much for the consideration.

Respectfully,  
Aaron Walker  
413 Pruitt Ave, White Rock  
863-670-5255





# K. MICHAEL CLEVELAND

2297 North Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544 | 513.490.1327 | mike.cleveland@gmail.com

**31 May 2018**

Dr. Harry Burgess  
County Manager  
Los Alamos County  
1000 Central Ave, Suite 350  
Los Alamos, NM 87544



**Dear Dr. Harry Burgess:**

I am writing to express my interest in filling the unexpired term of Councilor James Chrobocinski. I came to Los Alamos in late 2013 from graduate school in Pennsylvania to begin work at Los Alamos National Laboratory as a scientist. I quickly fell in love with the town and northern New Mexico. My wife and I enjoy all activities that get us outdoors, so Los Alamos provides us endless adventures. We are also parents of one-year-old twins and cannot think of a better place to raise a family. We are extremely proud to live in a very safe town with excellent schools. Because I am so fond of Los Alamos, I feel a responsibility to volunteer my time to help preserve and improve this wonderful town.

I recently graduated from Leadership Los Alamos (LLA), which provided me broad perspective of many of the key elements of Los Alamos. My LLA experience is a big motivator for me to seek this position on the county council because it developed an appreciation for all the services and individuals who make this town what it is. Appreciating all of this great work across the county inspired me to do my part in contributing to this system.

One of my key interests is the development of small businesses within the county. Part of this comes from growing up in a family of small business owners; both of my parents are small business owners and my mother runs a family business that my grandfather started. I appreciate the struggles and rewards of being a small business owner. I also believe that strong small businesses are what makes towns the size of Los Alamos really wonderful. My wife and I travel a lot around the southwest. The small towns (similar size as Los Alamos) that we really enjoy are largely appealing because of a vibrant small business economy. I feel this is one aspect in which Los Alamos has great potential and I want to do what I can to help the county realize this potential.

I would appreciate your consideration of me filling the unexpired term. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**K. Michael Cleveland**