

November 6, 2019

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

Dear County Manager Burgess,

My name is Kristina Ortez, and I am seeking the appointment for State Senate District 6, held by Senator Carlos Cisneros. Senator Cisneros' legacy is long and significant; he did so much to improve the lives of northern New Mexicans through his deep knowledge of state financial issues, investments in acequias and our water future, and his commitment to helping families across the state.

I know that no one can replace the esteemed Senator Cisneros, but I would be honored to take up the mantle of leadership in northern New Mexico.

I moved to Taos nearly 10 years ago, drawn by the land, water and light that has sustained this community for millenia. I am raising my two children here in Taos, and send them to a local school. I am also a proud Lobo—I received my Masters in Public Administration at the University of New Mexico—and I have served as the Executive Director of the Taos Land Trust for five years. This community supports and sustains me and my family; I am rooted here, and I feel a deep passion to serve Northern New Mexico.

I am not a career politician, though I have always worked in service to my community. That is how I was raised, and I have gone on to have a career in leadership within the nonprofit sector, focusing primarily on resolving land and water issues in communities.

As an advocate, I have worked with elected leaders to draft legislation and have advocated for public lands and clean water at the state and national levels. As the Executive Director for the Taos Land Trust, I develop operational budgets for my organization and set our strategic direction based on significant community input, including participation in the Taos County Community Conservation Plan and the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan. I focus on developing and furthering partnerships, such as the Rio Fernando de Taos Revitalization Collaborative, to achieve positive change for our community. And, as a mother, I understand the importance of investing in our children's educational future, health and safety.

In recent weeks, after being asked if I would consider candidacy for this seat, I have talked with my daughters, family members, friends, and colleagues. My community has helped me understand that my kind of leadership, with a focus on deep collaboration, partnership, and community input, is uniquely suited for leadership within the State Legislature.

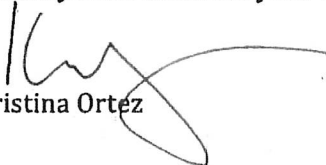
In the last six weeks I have met with several Los Alamos Councilors and concerned residents of the county to better understand the priorities and community needs. I have learned that Los Alamos works very hard to ensure that the county offers extraordinary educational and job opportunities for those in the county and in the region as a whole. I pledge to work with the county to ensure that Los Alamos continue to provide this, while we work together to improve equitable educational access, good jobs that pay a living wage, and improved and expanded housing opportunities in the entire region.

I am proud to be a Democrat. My priorities for the district include:

- **Education:** Fully funding high-quality early childhood education and increased equity in funding K-12, higher education, and adult education
- **Jobs:** Economic development rooted in northern New Mexico's strengths, including the restoration and recreation economies
- **Tribal Sovereignty:** Respect for tribal sovereignty that is put into action daily, particularly in funding decisions by the State
- **Women's Health:** Expansion of women's access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare
- **Environment:** Strong protections for our air, land, and water, investment in our acequias and food sovereignty, and a renewed focus on clean energy
- **Common-sense Gun Safety measures:** Measures that will save lives and build safer communities that are data driven and supported by an overwhelming majority of voters, including gun owners

I will work with each of the counties that make up Senate District 6 and promise to address the needs and concerns of the Los Alamos County Council and its constituents. I will work with the legislators from each of the counties in the district to ensure that our communities' voices are heard and represented. I am grateful for the service that you and the Los Alamos County Councilors provide to your community.

Thank you so much for your consideration,



Kristina Ortez

KRISTINA ORTEZ

Taos, NM • 575-770-7792
kristina.ortez@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Taos Land Trust

Taos, NM • April 2014 – Present

- Responsible for strategic direction, communications, fundraising, supporting the Board of Directors and management of the organization (a team of 4 staffers, 6 consultants and dozens of volunteers).
- Raised \$1.9 million in grant and donations from individual members and foundations from 2015-2018, including funding for the 20-acre property that will become Rio Fernando Park in downtown Taos.
- Serve as Western Liaison to the Land Trust Alliance Board of Directors
- Along with partners, founded the Rio Fernando de Taos Revitalization Collaborative, which aims to revitalize the Rio Fernando from its source to the confluence with the Rio Pueblo.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOMOS (Society of the Muse of the Southwest)

Taos, NM • January 2013 – April 2014

- Responsible for all fundraising and management of 30-year-old literary arts organization.
- Supported the board of the directors and managed two staffers.
- Successfully fundraised for and organized The Big Read.

SOUTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE, Mission Outdoors Program, Sierra Club

Albuquerque, NM • December 2008–January 2013

- Responsible for all communications and outreach, including developing and implementing communications and media strategy and crafting and executing political outreach.
- Co-founded and co-directed the New Mexico Outdoors Coalition, along with the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service and other conservation partners.
- Directed efforts to draft legislation, find legislative support and executive communications and outreach plan to successfully pass the New Mexico Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.
- Conceived, designed and executed the first "Getting Kids Outside: A Strategy to Combat Childhood Obesity in New Mexico" forum in summer 2010.

WESTERN WATER PROJECT ADVOCATE, Natural Resources Defense Council

San Francisco, CA • February 2007–December 2008

- Wrote and managed policy report "Making Every Drop Work: Increasing Water Efficiency in California's Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Sector."
- Developed multi-stakeholder campaign in California's Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta to restore this important estuary in order to bring back imperiled fish populations and protect California's most important water supply.
- Served as a steering committee member of the California Urban Water Conservation Council – a multi-stakeholder group made up of environmentalists and water agencies – to promote water use efficiency throughout the state.
- Land Program Advocate (November 2005–February 2007)
- Successfully campaigned for two 2006 California state ballot initiatives by building a coalition of Latino and environmental organizations across the state to support Proposition 84, the \$5.4 billion clean water bond and to oppose Proposition 90, an eminent domain reform initiative.

EDUCATION

MA, Public Administration

University of New Mexico

Graduated with distinction

BA, Anthropology

Harvard University

cum laude

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

CURRENT

Conservation Voters New Mexico
(President)

Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos (Vice
President)

PAST

Environmental Education
Association of New Mexico

San Joaquin River Parkway and
Conservation Trust

Restore the Delta

Affidavit


I, Kristina Ortiz, being first duly sworn, state that I reside at 246 Maria Luisa Loop, Taos, NM 87571 being within the geographical boundaries of New Mexico state senate District 6.

I am at least twenty-five years of age.

I desire to be recommended to be considered by the Los Alamos County Council and appointed by the Governor of the State of New Mexico to fill the vacancy for the office of New Mexico State Senator for District 6.

If and when the Governor appoints me to the position of New Mexico State Senator for District 6, I will be eligible and legally qualified to hold such office in that I will not then hold any office of trust or profit with the state, county or national governments, except notaries public and officers of the militia who receive no salary.

I make the foregoing affidavit under oath, knowing that any false statement herein constitutes a felony punishable under the criminal laws of New Mexico.



Affiant

246 Maria Luisa Loop, Taos, NM 87571

Mailing Address

246 Maria Luisa Loop, Taos, NM 87571

Residence Address

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of Nov, 2019.



Notary Public

My commission expires:
03/19/22

