

Public Comments for Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (as of July 13, 2026)

#	Name	Comment	Source
1	Sandy Charles	What you will hear from nearly everyone is that they are a perfect fit for the small trash baskets we all use in our bathrooms, bedrooms, offices, laundry rooms and patios. So let's find a way to cut the use by 90%. I have reusable bags for groceries like most of us, but use about 10 per month of the small plastic bags for small trash cans. How can we make this compromise?	Email
2	Janis Langford	I would like to oppose getting rid of single use bags. I use them again at times and I dispose of them properly. I am nearly 80 years old with significant back issues. With single use bags, I can limit how much is put in a bag so I can actually carry it in to my home. I cannot carry the much larger environment friendly bags.	Email
3	Cecile Hemez	I am writing in strong support of an ordinance limiting the use of single-use plastic bags in Los Alamos County.	Email
4	Patricia Archer	People who are going to use reusable bags are already doing it.	Cognito
5	Zandra Hall	I don't agree with limiting or charging for bags. How about every coffee, soda, water, soup, salad, etc. container? What about all the plastic containers in every store, business, and entertainment venue? Take out containers? Signs, tarps, chairs, flyers, take home containers, etc.? The problem certainly is not limited to a grocery bags.	Email
6	John Budzien	I am a Los Alamos resident of voting age. I oppose any restrictions to the use and/or availability of single use plastic bags. No more government overreach.	Email
7	Jess Taylor	Good morning! I read about the proposed single use plastic ban for los alamos County and want to register my support for this initiative! It's overdue that we address introducing ANY new plastic. In our company our eco team tried a challenge to do a full grocery shop without buying anything wrapped in plastic and it was impossible. Yet, this is what's necessary to reverse the damage plastic introduces into our environment. This step to reduce single use plastic bags will be an important one to signal to commercial entities that the public has long-term concerns that deserve to be addressed responsibly.	Email
8	Lisa Peterson	I am not able to attend the upcoming meeting to discuss a potential ban on plastic bags. I reject the idea of a ban. I reuse the plastic bags I receive. Most people reuse these bags to pick up pet waste, line trash bins, or hold wet items. A ban would just be an unnecessary pain for residents. Let us decide for ourselves if we want to use plastic bags or not. We like our freedom to choose. Thank you for your attention to this matter.	Email
9	Teresa Roberts	Greetings, I lived in White Rock. For the past several years I have been reducing my use of 'single use plastic items.' I bring my own bags to the grocery store and get 'bag credits.' I use Stasher Bags instead of plastic wrap and plastic bags (https://www.stasherbag.com/). I have a solar power grid on the roof of my house. I drive hybrid vehicles. All of these efforts reduce my carbon footprint on our earth. Your proposed plastic bag ban is OK with me.	Email
10	Daniel Varley	I am not in favor of doing away with single use bags. To us, these bags are never single use unless they arrive home ripped. First examples that come to mind: we fill them with poop from two medium dogs every week; we use them as trash bags when camping; and they are used to package chicken or turkey carcasses before going into the trash. I looked and discovered that I can buy these bags on Amazon the last time this idea was championed before the Council, and we will buy them before this ban goes into effect if things get to that point. The person who does most of our shopping already keeps reusable bags in her car yet occasionally she buys more than they can hold and single use bags come in handy. I rarely do grocery shopping. I don't use a bag when I buy one or two items as I have two hands. Because I seldom keep a reusable bag in my car and wouldn't remember to bring it in anyway, three items or more would be an inconvenience akin to shopping at Sam's Club which I more frequently do. Bottom line is I seldom see these bags in the environment. I'm not sure what problem someone is trying to solve. Banning "single use" bags is nothing but an inconvenience and someone else's windmill.	Email
11	Richard Honsinger	I urge the council to pass the plastic bag ban ordinance.	Email
12	Greg Weiss	This is an example of bad government. Many of these "single use" bags are re-used for other purposes. Residents will then purchase single-use plastic bags which are larger and thicker than the bags this ordinance will eliminate. The Net effect will be an equal amount of plastic in our waste stream. This proposal should be rejected completely.	Email
13	Valerie Fox	Please do not ban plastic bags. I personally use them for small can, trash bags and other uses as well. Many people re-use these bags in similar fashion. Banning their use means we will instead be purchasing boxed trash bags that contain more plastic (because they are bigger) and will only be used once. You won't be saving the planet with this stupid proposal. Please reconsider. Thank you.	Email
14	Karen Wray	I am disappointed to see that the County is being pushed AGAIN into another potential "single-use" plastic bag ban. We reuse those bags in our painting and drawing classes ALL THE TIME and if this ban is approved, I would need to purchase plastic garbage bags for our use. That would create a single-use bag problem in the County since most everyone reuses those bags for a wide variety of purposes including pet waste, small garbage bags at home and at work, for travel, for carrying paperwork, snacks, carrying extra shoes, etc. I would like to see the County focusing on other more important issues.	Email

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15	Grace	Good afternoon, I would like to share comments on the proposed ordinance. Under the definition for a Retail Establishment, is it meant to say "food or good delivery service provider"? I believe it should say "food" not "good." Under the definition of Owner, is it meant to say "assigns?" The word "assignee" may be better. The definition for Reusable Carryout Bag seems very prescriptive. Are there other materials that could be used that are not included in this list? I would reconsider how this is written. Under section 4, I feel it would be clearer to state "at the point of sale or goods transfer" or something similar. Section 5: The use of "are encouraged" rather than "may" evokes a feeling that the County wants consumers to be charged, like the County favors businesses over residents. Section 5: What limitations are there on the cost of the fee? Will the County allow \$2 and \$3 bag fees? There should be a ceiling on what is permissible. Considering this a HCOL area, if the decision is left to businesses, they might overcharge simply because they can. Section 7.(a).4: "or imprisonment" - this penalty is harsher than what was proposed in House Bill 392. If some flavor of HB392 gets reintroduced to the floor, will this clause create heartburn?	Email
16	Forrest Lanier	A ban on only plastic bags is not only performative, it's also typically worse environmentally. Reusable bags are great in theory, but the carbon offset to make them equated to having to use them 200 times to offset the manufacture as compared to making 200 single use bags. Also, the vast majority of packaging in stores is single use plastic. It's beyond stupid to buy meat, cheese, and frozen dinners all encased in single use packaging, but then it can't be enclosed in a bag that's single use. Do you want to encourage reuse? then subsidize reusable bags. When I lived in Germany they were typically 20 to 50 cents and honestly I bought a lot of them because they were good quality and usually had neat scenes on them, I'm honestly sad my main used one's are finally ripping out almost 7 years later. Are you more worried about littering? Then propose more trashcans, higher fines, or more compliance officers. Bags aren't the problems, people's habits are. Basically, get serious if you actually want to help, or just leave it alone. This performative stuff doesn't help anyone or the environment and is a net loss for everyone other than someone needing a meaningless bullet point in their next re-election flyer.	Email
17	G Strickfaden	When I saw that Las Cruces had a plastic bag ordinance, I emailed my sister who lives there and who is no activist but keeps up on current affairs. Here is her response, FYI. Her name is Peggy. Well, it seems to be working and most people/businesses seem to be abiding and doing their due diligence. So far the only businesses I'm aware of that still use plastic are Domino's and Pastaggio's. I usually save them to be used for cleaning cat boxes, etc., and giving them to my neighbor who sells at the Farmer' Market. Like you, I collect them on my walks and use them if they're usable. And when I do get around to throwing them away, I cut the handles so nothing gets stuck in them and generally cut them in pieces. Also, it seems, I've been told, that some businesses use more biodegradable plastic where it's already starting to fall apart in the sun before you can even get it into the car. All in all, the ruling works well and people are willing. There's a whole lot less NM state flags flapping in the wind stuck in mesquite bushes. So I hope LA gives it a try.	Email
18	Zena Thomas	I'm in favor of giving it a try, too.	Email
19		I would prefer that we continue the use of plastic bags.	Email
20		Not this topic again. There's a bunch of studies. I don't know what angle you're aiming for so I'm not going to assume and send random papers. Yet.	Facebook
21		Including this one. Plastic grocery bags make up 2% of litter in NM. So we are talking about plastic bags in LA which will be a very small fraction of the overall 2% being that many municipalities in NM don't ban them.	Facebook
22		Is there not anything more important for them to put their attention toward? I reuse my bags.	Facebook
23		I reuse the bags, they are not single use. There is plenty more important things that this county could be addressing.	Facebook
24		We're doing this again? Why?	Facebook
25		Because the council is bored and feels like they need to mess up more shit	Facebook
		They are not single use, you just call them that to further your agenda. Quit playing word games.	Facebook

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26		I reuse my plastic bags - not sure what I'd do without them. Why don't we focus maybe on finding alternative biodegradable or compostable bags rather than banning them. Plastic bags are very useful in certain situations!	Facebook
27		Because trying in 2015 and 2019 wasn't enough? Give it a rest already.	Facebook
28		I absolutely reuse those bags for many things so...they are not at all single use.	Facebook
29		What will I do with the cat poo??	Facebook
30		I have an idea who you could send it to...	Facebook
31		I use the vegetable bags in produce aisle. Those aren't going away.	Facebook
32		It's done nothing for Santa Fe. In San Diego (actually next to the ocean), their stores all still use single use plastic bags. Only the zoos use paper bags and paper straws.	Facebook
33		They are banned in HI.	Facebook
34		And San Diego.	Facebook
35		Take away our right to choose, are these the same folks that blocked off the hiking trails during covid. Whose the authoritarians here?	Facebook
36		Eliminate not reduce. Get rid of the single use plastic in the county.	Facebook
37		If you only use them once, *you're* the moron in the equation, and you should feel embarrassed about that.	Facebook
38		I strongly support reusable bags	Facebook
39		I don't think anyone has a problem with reusable bags and nobody is planning on telling us we can't provide them in our markets.	Facebook
40		We should follow Santa Fe's plastic bag policy, 10 cents a bag. Folks really need to think more about the enormous amounts of plastic going into our landfills and oceans.	Facebook
41		10 cents per bag is essentially a government imposed fine for non-compliance	Facebook
42		Maybe "3rd time's the charm" ...that they'll get the message that's been sent twice already!! What a waste of time and energy!	Facebook
43		This again?	Facebook
44		I use them for small trash cans. If they're taken away, I'd just have to buy plastic bags. It makes no difference to take them away. Plus they use such little amount of plastic. Paper bags use more materials and have a bigger carbon footprint.	Facebook
45		100%. Paper bags are way worse for the environment.	Facebook
46		The main finding of this review process was that the single-use plastic grocery bag (usually made out of HDPE) should not be totally excluded or banned, since it can be the most environmentally friendly option in almost all the evaluated scenarios compared to different material families such as paper, cotton, or other polymers such as bio-based or oxo-degradable when used only once, having about 50% of the environmental impact (climate change) of the other alternatives mentioned above. However, when the reuse option is taken into account, plastic bags that withstand multiple use, have the tendency to have less impact on the environment, contributing to approximately 60% less than a single-use paper bag (climate change environmental impact). As for the case of waste single-use bags, a biodegradable alternative might be the most environmental and viable alternative in cases where organic waste sorting and collection becomes generalized.	Facebook
47		I use my own canvas or nylon shopping bags - except for delivery or pick-up orders. And none of those get thrown away. I give a lot of my bags to my parents in Colorado - because they aren't able to get bags anymore to reuse.	Facebook
48		Strong support for reusable bags. Also they should charge 10 cents at the grocery store for a bag.	Facebook
49		The answer is no.	Facebook
50		Does our county really have nothing better to do with its time? If not I can think of a few things about lac that piss me off more than the plastic bags we use way more than 1x. Can we please find something else to worry about. Our power is about to go through the roof in lac and instead of finding time to worry how to reduce THOSE charges you're gonna push for something we've said no to 2x already.	Facebook
51		I use them for so much, they're not at all single-use in most homes.	Facebook
52		Can we do "send pedophiles to prison" instead? Seems to be a bigger problem in LA than plastic bags. Just saying...	Facebook
53		How about the Board and Council leaving people the hell alone to live their own lives? We don't need any more government interference and regulation. Enough of the virtue signaling already.	Facebook
54		Don't you have more important stuff to deal with	Facebook
55		I reuse mine. Don't be ignorant enough to ban them.	Facebook
56		Affordable housing	Facebook
57		affordable utilities	Facebook
58		Recycling this rubbish again. Waste of time.	Facebook
59		You all got better things to worry about than plastic bags.	Facebook
60		They've been banned in Santa Fe-not worth it-most people use them multiple times-and if I forget my tote bags, by the time I double bag paper bags to keep them from breaking-I question the environmental balance of either type.	Facebook
61		The New Mexico State Bird is the plastic bag. I support this.	Facebook
62		This again	Facebook
63		I strongly support following Europe's lead - a hefty surcharge for every single plastic bag. You will be amazed at the number of plastic bags people decide they don't "really" need. Stop plastic pollution.	Facebook
64		I'm sure there are more important issues to work on than worry about plastic bags.	Facebook

Public Comments for Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (as of July 13, 2026)

#	Name	Comment	Source
65		I reuse plastic bags too. Litter box cleaning & yard patrol for dog poop.	Facebook
66		Single use? The homeless use them multiple times until they literally disintegrate (the bag, not the homeless)	Facebook
67		Hasn't this been brought to a vote & shot down twice?	Facebook
68		No!!!!	Facebook
69		I have a cat. Not having plastic store bags will just force me to buy them. Hardly a win for anyone.	Facebook
70		They're cheap. About 3 cents each when you buy in small quantities like 1000. That'll last me a few years, and I'm 100% for sure going to buy them if this ban goes through. The ban would regulate the market, not the customer.	Facebook
71		Purchased boxes of bags are the definition of single use bags. When I bring my purchases home from the store and then use them to line a wastebasket, take cookies to a neighbor, or clean out the car box, they are double use.	Facebook
72		I'd say about half the bags we bring home from the market get reused. We have a stockpile of them, but when that bag holder thing is full, they get tossed. I'll typically use one from the storage thing to bring a couple of cans of diet Dew to the office nearly every day. Should the day come I buy a box of bags, they'll get stored in the car for buying groceries, and will either be jammed in the bag storage thing at home for a 2nd use, or right in the trash as we do it today.	Facebook
73		I use the vegetable/produce bags for kitty litter. Those will still be there. You can use those.	Facebook
74		I'd much rather they'd consider banning single use plastic water bottles.	Facebook
75		I agree. Single use plastic water bottles are a much greater concern.	Facebook
76		So to which councilors doorstep shall I hand-carry my cat's shit?	Facebook
77		I think at this point, the more efficient use of county time would be introducing an expedited process to manage their next inevitable step to process contempt of county with kangaroo court procedures so that those of us with the slightest shred of common sense may more quickly be dealt with, and sent to the gulag that never appears in a budget meeting. Bring as many bags as you can smuggle in. They'll be currency inside, and likely used *many* times over.	Facebook
78		They do this yearly. Single use bags are not single use! Trash, giving things away, portable carryalls.	Facebook
79		I never throw the so-called "single use" bags away. They have a multitude of uses. I have a stockpile of them in the event the county will try (again) to ban them. It's hard to believe there aren't more critical issues that "need" to be addressed.	Facebook
80		So wait...I buy bread in a plastic bag, deli meat in a plastic bag, cheese in a plastic bag, mayo and mustard in plastic bottles...but bringing it all home in a plastic bag...this is where we draw the line?	Facebook
81		This!!! At least we reuse our grocery bags.	Facebook
82		I reuse my bags for a multitude of things.	Facebook
83		Common sense has left the building. Why don't we just eliminate everything else? According to fifty percent of the population, everything is bad for you.	Facebook
84		When Santa Fe banned 'single use' plastic bags, I went to Sam's and bought a box of them. They are my Santa Fe shopping bags. They fold up nicely in my handbag and I just pull out however many I need for my purchase and hand them to the clerk. I reuse them as trash can liners and, when we had a cat, for cleaning the litter box. Much cheaper than ten cents a bag. That one box is still over half full. There's more than one way to solve a problem.	Facebook
85		This is so much more important than all the empty commercial buildings just sitting around decaying. Why not try to find businesses to occupy those empty, decaying buildings based on the metrics of income, population, and education? The council is finding busy work for the county again.	Facebook
86		Just stop with this...we've already stated our opinions and we don't want a ban on the single use plastic bags! Please focus on other and far more important issues facing our county...power outages, medical care issues, safer traffic conditions during rush hour and better new housing availability.	Facebook
87		How about a plastic bag surcharge that goes to the Clean Up Los Alamos Day volunteer breakfast burrito fund? Asking for a friend	Facebook
88		You run into issues with the state anti-donation clause. Which is one of the reasons this was defeated in 2015. This is the third time this issue has been brought forth. It's intrusive and a waste of the CC's time to keep resurrecting it. If ppl want to use cloth or reusable bags, they can and should, but mind your business. People reuse these bags and want their options.	Facebook
89		See where else this has been tried and does not achieve the results it claims it will.	Facebook
90		Here we go again.	Facebook
91		Stupid thought, just make them biodegradable.	Facebook
92		I thought the current year was 2026, not 2015.	Facebook
93		Sheesh, go ahead, keep turning Los Alamos into Santa Fe. Make it even harder for LANL to hire and keep people.	Facebook
94		Bags end up in the pond. Every day	Facebook

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95		Before my store opened, I delved into the world of what is best environmentally and practically. Paper bags tear more (particularly for heavy goods like pet food cans) and they are heavier to transport. So, in analysis I looked at, the paper bags took less gasoline to transport them to their retail destinations because, for example, 500 paper bags are heavier than 500 plastic bags, but that is often ignored in the analysis. Happy to do whatever the County requires (we encourage reusable bags and, for a decade even gave a discount for doing so), but the analysis of what is better for the environment can be debatable. In the end, I settled on well-made (expensive for me) plastic bags that are reusable. So, I guess I would want a clearer definition of single-use than what is in the draft ordinance, especially since potential jail time is involved. Who goes to jail, by the way? The owner of the business? What happens in franchises? The manager? The employees giving them out?	Facebook
96		No! Although I use reusable bags often, I still use and reuse plastic bags for small tasks around the house and for cat litter boxes. I'd be okay with paying a small fee to purchase them at checkout IF the money goes to something useful to the CITIZENS of LA county and NOT for something only the COUNTY wants.	Facebook
97		Here you go again!	Facebook
98	Geoff Reeves	I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance "BANNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AND ENCOURAGING RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS TO CHARGE A FEE FOR RECYCLED CONTENT PAPER CARRYOUT BAGS." I have read the entire ordinance and agree that single use plastic bags are a problem in a number of ways. Banning them is really the only solution and there are plenty of other options for shoppers including those mentioned in the ordinance. The exceptions to the ban are also reasonable. I have been a Los Alamos resident for over 35 years and I am registered to vote in Los Alamos.	Email
99	Lisa Shin	Dear Council: It is hard to keep up with all the ways you are increasing the cost of living for middle-class residents & those on a fixed income. Recycled bags & paper boxes raise expenses for our businesses and increase the grocery bill. In Santa Fe, there is a 10 cent option to purchase plastic bags, but now you want to eliminate them altogether. Now you want to force businesses to raise costs for their customers? By doing away with plastic bags at checkout, shoppers will simply purchase them on the shelf, which is also more expensive and does not achieve your goal of reducing plastic bags. Furthermore, this ordinance will encourage more online shopping, which harms our local economy.	Email
100	Sarah Frogget	Please do not implement this ordinance. This is, I believe, the third time this ordinance has come up. The citizens have spoken on this issue multiple times and this ordinance has not passed in the past. Why is it coming up again? In my house, there is no such thing as a single-use plastic bag. We use them for lots of things including small garbage can liners that last for weeks, "luggage" for car trips, insulation, garbage bags, etc. If you want to have an impact on plastic waste, start with product packaging. I don't have a researched number, but I bet 95% of the plastic that comes home from the grocery store is product packaging, not the bags it comes home in, and that's just one example. Let people make their own choices. If someone wants to use reusable bags, let them. If someone wants a paper bag, let them have one. If there are customers who want a plastic bag, good gosh - let it be. I do think we still use too much plastic and too much of it ends up in landfills. But banning plastic bags, which are arguably more sanitary and easier to use, does not make a big enough impact on plastic waste to have this be an issue for Los Alamos county AGAIN. Spend this energy on amping up plastic recycling in the county. Figure out a way to let us recycle all plastic waste. Have recycle bins downtown with clear signage on what can and can't be recycled. Give tax breaks to citizens who meet a certain weight of recycling per year. Do something besides inconveniencing citizens for little impact. And please stop trying to force this issue.	Email
101	Robert Dryja	The Smiths Grocery provides plastic bags conveniently located at its sales check out counters. It also has disposal barrels at the entry/exit doorways. The county may need to design an ordinance so that other businesses can easily distribute and retrieve their kind of plastic bags similar to Smiths.	Email
102	Alan Kaplan	I feel that ALL plastic bags should be banned including "reusable" as we all know those are a loophole to get around single use.	Cognito
103	Robert Lowrie	Please ban single-use plastic bags, or at least, charge for them and use the proceeds for litter mitigation.	Cognito
104	Casaundra Kaplan	As a CA transplant, when this was voted in a handful of years ago, I witnessed grocery stores coming up with work arounds such as having thicker plastic bags that they were able to still use as long as they charged \$.15 for them. I'd prefer to have a no plastic bag measure so that people have to bring their own bags, use a cardboard box from the store or make the stores offer paper bags as has been done in other countries for over a decade now.	Cognito
105	Brianna Day	Great idea!	Cognito
106	Lisa Andreatta	The ban of single use plastic bags is unquestionably overdue. We are an educated community with a high median income. What logical reason is there keep the use? Selfishness, entitlement, and laziness at the only reasons I've witnessed. We need to participate in the reduction of single bag use.	Cognito
107		Please don't do this. Get more bear carts distributed and work to keep the bears and crows out of dumpsters	Cognito

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		retaliation before. Thank you for considering my opinion on the topic of a new plastic bag ban ordinance. I believe it's better to encourage good behavior especially by making it convenient rather than forcing it through punitive regulation. You strip people of the freedom to make a positive choice creating resentment toward the local government for being overbearing. Constantly buying expensive re-use bags at the stores places a burden on those of us of lower incomes. I've seen the bags range from \$3-\$5 ea. They aren't any cheaper online. And yes this is a significant amount of money to me. In my experience, most re-usable bags last about a year before they fall apart and become landfill items themselves. They are made of plastics that are difficult to recycle again and are a waste stream themselves. So they don't solve the problem, they only slightly lessen it, maybe. I think the store bags are a very small percentage of the one-time use plastics coming into the county and just a high visibility target for feel good but don't do much points. Sadly, most food items come packaged in excessive amounts of not really recycled material. And yes, I am aware that most plastics do not get actually get recycled by the recyclers, but instead end up in landfills or incinerated. What we need is the one big store in town to provide biodegradable or fully recyclable bags. I don't think the few small biz. that are barely holding on that don't have an exception need to be penalized with fines. I think if you do go the bag ban route we limit it to stores with over some threshold number of customers/day and you provide best option type bags for residents and visitors for free. I believe instead the county should offer all residents 6-8 re-usable bags a year. The bags could be printed with the county logo and have space for sponsored local business logos to offset the cost of the bags. The bags should be available at the visitor center and museums as well for tourist.	
108	Wish to remain Anonymous	I am concerned that this will just be the beginning of these green regulations. If such a small target such as a few	Cognito
109		Instead of putting the responsibility on the retail business, of providing a way to carry purchases from the store, it should be provided by those wanting to put this ordinance in place, give the stores paper bags, boxes and reusable bags, small businesses can't afford another ordinance. There is far more problems for the county to deal with and this issue has come up previously and the citizenry did not want the county to ban plastic bags. We use the plastic bags for multiple uses at our house from waste baskets, cleaning cat litter boxes etc. We are definitely against retail establishments gaining extra income by charging for bags to shop. This is a "county feel good issue" and citizens are just going to have to purchase other plastic bags (Glad bags etc.) again enriching the retailer.	Cognito
110	Peter McNiff		Cognito
111		I don't see a clear exception for the sale of bags to pick up and dispose of dog waste, nor do I see a clear exception for the sale of food storage bags.	Cognito
112	Stephen Blair	I strongly support Los Alamos County's proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance, to address the concerns identified in the draft Ordinance, but also to adapt to a changing world and place Los Alamos County among more forward-thinking and environmentally responsible communities in the United States. The need for Ordinances such as that proposed is real. As are many of the concerns that undoubtedly will be raised. But most if not all likely objections to the Ordinance can be addressed, through mechanisms such as ensuring broad distribution of Reusable Carryout Bags and availability of Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bags. Other communities have successfully implemented bans on single use plastic bags. The objection that reducing an individual's use of plastic bags makes no difference to overall environmental concerns is false - the relevant question is what is the impact when a larger number of individuals collectively modify their behavior. Similarly, the objection that the County has more important concerns to address and so why waste time on banning plastic bags is simply misdirection and an attempt to complicate the County's attempts to address the wide range of issues that do exist and should be addressed. The proposed Ordinance can serve as an educational tool, highlight the need for all of us to change our behaviors, and help build a shared understanding that will be needed when addressing larger issues, such reducing water usage and moving toward greater electrification of homes and vehicles. I urge the County to consider and address legitimate concerns raised in this request for comments, adopt a strong and meaningful Plastic Bag Ordinance, monitor implementation of any such Ordinance for legitimate concerns, and continue to provide a mechanism for feedback from the broader community. Thank you for considering my comments and providing an opportunity for County residents to provide feedback on the proposed Ordinance.	Cognito

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113	Barbara Blair	I support the single-use plastic bag ban. My biggest gripe concerning the bags is the litter aspect. I walk/hike a lot and am tired of seeing and picking up the bags. I think at this point in time most people have reusable bags and are use to using them. For those that aren't, I don't believe it will be a great inconvenience to make the change to reusable bags. Thank you.	Cognito
114	Barbara Calef	I am very pleased the Council is once again considering passing an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags. I hope it will pass this time. I would recommend that the County impose a fee on bags provided to customers rather than leave it up to the business in order to further encourage customers to provide their own bags. The payment should be retained by the business.	Cognito
115	Richard Sayre	I strongly support a complete ban on plastic bags. They are a scourge on wildlife and contribute substantially to global microplastic environmental contamination and thus represent a considerable long-term health risk.	Cognito
116	Jody Benson	developing an ordinance. And to the Council--please do not reject the ordinance because of public disapproval of some aspects of it. If people react to a government interference with personal freedom, please work with Smiths to simply charge for each single-use plastic shopping bag. Shoppers can have a bag; it will just become a commodity. Shoppers are free to purchase it. I'm attaching a very partial history of the Sierra Club's, the League of Women Voters, and the community's efforts starting in 2015. I included some letters in opposition. Also attached is the 2015 summary of efforts from the LWV: This is from the LWVLA report to the LWVNM Board for July, 2015. For well over a year we worked with the Sierra Club to achieve a ban or fee on single use plastic bags (and paper) in Los Alamos. We succeeded in convincing the County Council to direct the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) to hold two public meetings to discuss the issue and to return to Council with options for reducing the distribution of single use bags in the County. It turned out that there was extremely strong opposition to any action. A well-organized and vocal group invoking freedom and threatening lawsuits fought us at every step. Strangely, while sneering that the matter was too unimportant to consider, they devoted hundreds of hours to fighting it. We did not give up, but have succeeded only in getting the ESB to pass a motion asking the Council to act to educate and encourage citizens to reduce consumption of natural resources, including plastic bags. https://ladailypost.com/letter-to-the-editor-lets-ban-single-use-plastic-bags/ Opposition from Joyce Anderson https://ladailypost.com/letter-to-the-editor-keep-plastic-bags-in-los-alamos/ https://ladailypost.com/los-alamos-republican-party-meets-jan-15/ (The discussion with the GOP-LA was not well-received even though Chair Robert Gibson now leads on net-zero carbon in the community. He was able to change his mind. https://ladailypost.com/letter-to-the-editor-on-banning-plastic-bags/	Cognito
117	Dawn cline	OK, I just read the par and it is worse than other violations in Los Alamos: just time and fees for using a re-usable bag? Is there going to be a group of people that go around to see what bags we are using? Is this going to be a paid committee to look for "violations" and who will be paying them? Are you going to come to all of stores and determine they rules are met? Are you going to force us to "buy new bags" from a vendor of the county's choice at some ridiculous amount? How and who will be going to determine the price and then how to we tax them and it this going to be considered "sales income"? What about non-profits, how would I charge them "if" they wanted a plastic bag? What about the items that get shipped to me? Is that going to be a "violation"? I think Styrofoam take-out containers are worse when all of older people re-use these so much in our houses? Think of all the BIGGER TRASH bags that everyone is going to start to use instead and will not be filled to the max. I understand the reason on using these bags less, but it involves more knowledgeable in writing of this LAW. In my store, people ask for a bag after they pay, so then how would I charge them again when they want to use a credit card. How can you prove which bag came from what store, if you are going to after them? There is a lot more critical information needed than a 3-sheet Law. You can call me to if you want, because I have a lot of questions and concerns?	Cognito

Public Comments for Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (as of July 13, 2026)

#	Name	Comment	Source
		is an important goal, this ordinance is a poorly conceived solution that places additional burdens on residents and local businesses while providing little evidence that it will meaningfully improve environmental outcomes in Los Alamos County. The ordinance repeatedly asserts that plastic bags are a significant contributor to local litter, recycling costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and public health concerns. Yet nowhere does it provide county-specific data demonstrating that single-use plastic bags constitute a substantial portion of our local waste stream or that they are responsible for measurable environmental harm within Los Alamos County. Public policy should be based on objective evidence, not generalized claims or assumptions imported from jurisdictions with vastly different populations, infrastructure, and waste management challenges. Los Alamos is not a densely populated coastal community struggling with plastic pollution washing into the ocean. It is a community with a highly educated population, excellent waste management services, and relatively low levels of litter compared to major metropolitan areas. Before imposing new regulations on every resident and business, the County should first demonstrate that a significant local problem actually exists. The ordinance also ignores the growing body of research showing that reusable bags are not automatically better for the environment. Numerous life-cycle analyses have found that reusable bags must be used many dozens—or even hundreds—of times before offsetting the environmental costs associated with their manufacture. Many reusable bags are made from thicker plastics or imported materials that require substantially more energy and raw materials to produce than lightweight plastic bags. If consumers forget their reusable bags and repeatedly purchase new ones, the overall environmental impact may actually increase rather than decrease. Equally concerning is the economic burden this ordinance places on local retailers. Small businesses will bear the cost of sourcing more expensive paper bags or reusable bags while also modifying their operations to comply with a new regulatory requirement. Although the ordinance merely "encourages" retailers to charge customers for paper bags, the practical effect is to increase costs either for businesses or consumers during a period when families are	
118	Andrew Wall		Cognito
119	Aimee Price	Please ban the use of plastic bags! It's one small step we can do to help reduce waste in our county.	Cognito
120	Stephen price	Yes please! Would love to see a plastic bag ban!	Cognito
121	Didier Saumon	I'm in favor of this ordinance. Loose plastics bags carried by the wind are an eyesore and a danger to animals that may eat them or get entangled. Are 'Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bags' biodegradable (besides being recyclable)?	Cognito
122	Camille Wescott	I support the plastic bag ordinance. Natural Grocers has successfully implemented a similar policy. Other retailers should be able to do the same, to support improving our climate. Plastic bags are a nuisance!	Cognito
123	Suzanne Nowicki	While it is great to finally see a ban on single-use plastic bags, other single-use plastics and polystyrene (Styrofoam) remain a major issue. Our local ordinance should expand to include plastic containers, cups, utensils, and Styrofoam. Too many restaurants still rely on these harmful materials. To protect our community and wildlife, businesses should be required to switch to environmentally friendly, biodegradable takeout items instead. Thank you for your time and for pushing for a cleaner environment.	Cognito
124	Alexei Klimenko	I fully support the ordinance. It's about time that LA county joins many other municipalities in NM with such ban.	Cognito
125	Amelie Schwendt	Eliminate the usage of plastic bags all together. We have to save the planet	Cognito
126	Kelly Myers	Ban plastic grocery bags!!	Cognito
127		this is a non starter.... there's good reason Albuquerque backtracked from paper bags within a very short time. nobody likes their soup cans or other graces ripping and spilling walking out of the stores. The paper bags are much larger volume (for stack of 100 etc.), flimsy, flammable. This is not good for a fire danger area... more paper in household, dumpster, landfills is not ideal. Also, the plastic bags are recycled and reused... as lunch bags, laundry on travel, camping, garbage bags, many uses. Last, Los alamos small businesses also face WAY more than enough hurdles with gross receipts tax, high labor costs to compete with LANL for limited employees. Many small businesses fail yearly in this city. Making them buy certain bags is ridiculous. In a free county, the folks wishing for paper bags use those, those wanting reuseable thick plastic or cloth bags use those, and fans of plastic bags or other tyes do that also. :)	Cognito
128	Paul Daly	I am in strong support of the single-use plastic carryout bag ban.	Cognito
128	Linda Daly	I am in favor of the single use plastic bag ban. Most people that I know are already doing this. So, so many communities around THE WORLD have already adopted a similar ordinance/or ban. More importantly, our environment needs this. Minimal inconvenience for a really big impact.	Cognito
130	Marilyn	Please stop the use of single use bags	Cognito
131	Jessica Anderson	Hello, I vote against the plastic bag ban. Our household reuses the bags we receive many times over for a variety of uses and the bag would force extra unnecessary expenses on our household to come up with more expensive alternatives. Thank you	Cognito

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#	Name	Comment	Source
132	Theresa Wilson	I think banning one use plastic bags in this county is long overdue. I'm sure most of us have been in the habit of bring our own bags when shopping. There are plenty of exceptions in the proposed ordinance that should keep most happy. I am fully in agreement that we should ban those flimsy plastic bags that end up along fence lines, in arroyos, and in utility lines!	Cognito
133		I support a ban on plastic bags, like in this ordinance. Section 4-b-2 should instead call out plastic bags specifically to prevent liquid leakage (of whatever, not just takeout food), and not allow grocery-handle-style bags (which are not leak-proof) for takeout. Section 4-b-4 is not needed---no reason to exempt dry cleaning/laundry.	Cognito
134	REBECCA DAHL	I don't think banning bags and controlling people's lives is the answer. Teach correct principles and we can do it ourselves. I always brought my own bags to the grocery store when I got extra pts to use them. If I get plastic, I reuse them.	Cognito
135		In our household, we reuse the "single-use plastic bags". We use them for cat litter, trash collection in our vehicles, dog waste pick up, moving items from our household to elsewhere, ect. If the "single-use plastic bags" were not provided anymore, we would buy a biodegradable version to still use for above mentioned reasons. We "recycle" the not reused "single-use plastic bags" by taking them to the drop off bin inside the entrance of the Los Alamos Smith's. I would support a requirement to provide biodegradable bags at retail stores/charge a fee if it costs the retailer more to supply them & phase out "single-use plastic bags".	Cognito
136	Andrew Fraser	I don't like plastic bags, but I oppose the ban. I believe that making paper bags is worse for the environment. Like Ko-Ko in the Mikado, I have a list of things that would not be missed. Although plastic bags are on it. It's not appropriate to have laws against everything on my list.	Cognito
137	Anne Nobile	I support the single use bag ordinance. I've traveled to one European country and at least one American city that enforces a similar rule. Works fine.	Cognito
138		I love this ordinance! It's a great way to get rid of a very problematic source of plastic waste and I've been hoping to see something like this proposed!	Cognito
139	Los Alamos Lock and Key	Los Alamos Lock and Key votes against the plastic bag ban. Our staff reuse plastic bags for many purposes in our business including as packing material for our daily outgoing orders. We received the 2026 Sustainable Small Business of the Year award from the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce and imposing a ban on plastic bags would force us to increase costs to our customers for alternatives used in place of the plastic bags.	Cognito
140	Steven Mullins	This has been voted on and did not pass twice in the last decade. I'm not sure which members of the council have this as a personal agenda, but the voters have spoken, not once, but twice. We do not want a ban. Most of us re-use our bags for other purposes.	Cognito
141		STRONGLY OPPOSED. Please do not pass this ordinance. Encourage responsible use, alternatives, and provide for more readily identifiable drop-off locations for used plastic bags, but this ordinance is a bad idea. Intentionally adding to nuisance fees is malicious.	Cognito
142		Why do reusable bags need stitched handles? I have some whose handles are cutout in the cloth, so there are no stitches. Are those not acceptable? O know it doesn't really change the ordinance proposal, but it is an odd definition. Hopefully the others don't have weirdness like this that create loopholes	Cognito
143	David DeCroix	Please ban them, we do not need plastic bags anymore. It's too easy to just use reusable bags.	Cognito
144		Keep as it is, no need to change. Please!	Cognito
145	Jacci Gruninger	I think this is a GREAT idea and can't believe Los Alamos doesn't already have a policy in place. I am all for everything this policy stands for. Please vote YES!	Cognito
146	John Q Public	I'm against this type of regulation on libertarian principle. The trend in town is toward people toting their reusable bags. Bravo. But don't regulate it.	Cognito
147		I would prefer the county find more initiatives that would affect the major businesses in the area, than performative measures asking individuals to sacrifice. We reuse plastic bags in a multitude of ways in my home, and banning them would add unnecessary expense to my small family, as we would then have to buy plastic bags to make up the difference. And those plastic bags we would buy, would affect the environment just as much. Maybe we could take a look at how the lab continues to poison our land instead?	Cognito
148		I do NOT support the proposed ordinance.	Cognito
149	Nona Girardi	I strongly support the proposed plastic bag ordinance for Los Alamos County. I reuse what I can as soon as possible. It's so easy and convenient to use Reusable Carryout Bags (and for some items, Recyclable Cardboard Boxes) for groceries and other shopping. I've been doing so for decades. Many communities outside Los Alamos have been banning or restricting single use plastic bags for years, and those communities have reaped the benefits, without suffering harms. Requiring reusable bags also has the beneficial side effect of routinely gently reminding all of us to try to reduce our use of other plastics and other single-use items when we can. Single use plastic bags are a visible mess, a source of pollution and a danger to wildlife in the short run, and in the longer run, they are a source of toxic chemicals that endanger human health and the environment as they degrade and disperse, whether as litter or in landfills. They cannot be effectively recycled, in spite of many attempts. And when accidentally or carelessly added to single-stream recycling, they interfere with or even prevent the recycling of otherwise recyclable materials, and add to the expense of waste disposal. This proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance is particularly good because it makes clear the exemptions to the ban, and allows the continued use of single use plastic bags in those limited cases in which single use plastics are actually appropriate for protecting safety, health, or the environment.	Cognito

Public Comments for Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (as of July 13, 2026)

#	Name	Comment	Source
150		Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed ordinance regarding the ban on single-use plastic carryout bags. While I appreciate the boards intent to protect our beautiful local environment and align with the County's Climate Action Plan, I am writing to express my opposition to this ordinance. My opposition is based not on a disregard for sustainability, but on environmental and economic data showing that outright bans often yield unintended consequences that run counter to the goals stated in Section 2 of this proposal. I ask the board and Council to consider the following evidence-based points before voting: 1. The Environmental Lifecycle Paradox Section 2 of the ordinance states that this measure aims to "reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel usages." However, comprehensive Lifecycle Assessments (LCAs)—including those by the UK Environment Agency and Denmark's Ministry of Environment and Food—demonstrate that traditional thin plastic bags actually have the lowest carbon footprint and energy usage in production and transport compared to alternatives. Paper Bags: Paper bag production is highly water- and chemical-intensive. To match the low global warming potential of a single-use plastic bag, a recycled paper bag must be reused at least 4 to 7 times. Because paper bags tear easily, they are rarely reused to this extent, meaning a shift to paper may actually increase the County's net carbon footprint. Reusable Bags: Heavy-duty reusable bags (cotton or woven polypropylene) require massive amounts of energy to produce. A cotton tote must be used over 130 times, and non-woven PP bags must be used dozens of times, just to break even with the environmental footprint of a standard plastic bag. If consumers treat these heavier bags as semi-disposable, the environmental burden worsens. 2. The "Bag Leakage" Effect and Waste Generation	Cognito
151		I reuse plastic grocery bags for daily trash disposal. If stores can't offer them when I make purchases, I will purchase plastic bags for the same purpose. Either way, I will use small plastic bags	Cognito
152	Sharon Fogle	This is a terrible idea. Los Alamos should NOT adopt a ban on plastic bags. Most people reuse plastic bags for a many uses.	Cognito
153	Charlotte Sartor	I support the proposed plastic bag ordinance. There are many problems with plastic bags. They are made from fossil fuels. Greenhouse gases are produced with their manufacture. They contribute to litter. &nev er completely biodegrade, They just break into smaller and smaller particles that contribute to pollution and enter the food chain. We should be doing everything we can to reduce the use of plastic.	Cognito
154	Stephanie Haaser	These bags are reusable. Have you considered a campaign to demonstrate to people ways they could reuse these bags? Vehicle trash bags, small trash can liners, pet waste, lunch bags, and diaper waste bags are the ways my family reuses these bags. I'm sure others have interesting ways they reuse them, too.	
155	Liz Laskey	Having lived in Austin, TX following a bag ban, my family purchased more plastic bags from the store. We still need waste liners and pet waste bags.	Cognito
		My husband and I are completely for the ban on the bags.	Email
156	Eileen Tobey	There is no reason for this legislation. Most people in this community are responsible trustees of the environment. Even though the grocery sacks are designed for single use many of us have second uses for those bags. Many of us reuse as grocery sacks until they fall apart and for waste disposal prior to going into the black trash bags. Disposable diapers (baby and adult) frequently are disposed of in grocery sacks. With the grocery sacks no longer available, buying plastic bags may be the only option. (We're already buying the black trash bags.) We used to wash diapers. With this in mind, perhaps legislation against disposable diapers should come next. I hope not! Sixty-five years ago, Pampers came out with a flushable baby diaper. Obviously, that was a bigger problem for sewer systems. Then came the idea of biodegradable baby diapers that would biodegrade if left in the sun. Can you imagine yards covered in hundreds of baby diapers? We have hundreds of children still in diapers in Los Alamos. This isn't the only reason plastic grocery sacks are important, but please keep this in mind when you think about legislation against these sacks.	Email
157	Jeanette Moss	Plastic bags do not cause a severe pollution issue in Los Alamos. Why don't you focus on keeping our electricity bills down instead of on stupid things like banning plastic bags. This is just another item that is going to cost the consumers more money. I disagree with the plastic bag ban and think you should focus on helping your constituents deal with inflation and rising gas prices.	Email

Public Comments for Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (as of July 13, 2026)

#	Name	Comment	Source
158	Kevin Willis	I wish to take this opportunity to recommend a NO vote to banning plastic bags in Los Alamos County. Ever try to pick up your dog's poop with a paper bag? Ever return home from the grocery store and found the bloody juice from a package of chicken that has dripped on your produce? A large number of Los Alamos residents reuse plastic bags for any number of purposes such as lining small trash cans, storing household items, carrying our children's wet swimsuits home from the pool, or even makeshift lunch bags. From a climate change perspective, it is a readily accessible fact that the manufacture of plastic grocery bags requires far less carbon emissions than paper bags and reusable bags. Surprise! The chicken that I purchase at the grocery store is packaged in plastic, along with many other items that plastic is the only good way to package them to reduce spoilage and cross contamination. I carry these items home in a plastic grocery bag. I reuse the plastic garbage bag for various reasons, and when I toss them I place them in a larger plastic bag containing my garbage. These plastic bags are important enough to Los Alamos citizens that if you ban them, we will still have to purchase plastic trash bags at the store to replace them. I don't see how this helps the issue of plastics in waste management. I don't see why the County Council continues to find new ways for Los Alamos citizens to spend additional money to live our lives. For once I'd like to see you consider ways to make our lives better and reduce the costs we bear due to your decisions. Please VOTE NO to banning plastic bags.	Email
159	Nancy Willis	I am contacting you to express my opposition to banning plastic bags. Many residents of Los Alamos County use and reuse plastic bags for a variety of purposes. Also, the bags are recyclable and can be taken back to stores for re-use, so already are being used responsibly. Paper bags often break and items fall through when there is any kind of spillage. Plastic bags also are more economical for businesses costing about \$0.01 to \$0.05 per unit, compared to paper bags which range from \$0.05 to \$0.25 each. It has become fashionable to criticize plastics as environmentally bad, but an American Chemical Society study, concluded in 15 of 16 examined applications, (packaging being one of them), plastic products release 10 to 90 % fewer emissions across their life cycle compared to glass or aluminum. Let's not ban plastic bags just for the sake of banning plastic bags. Thank you.	Email
160	Lisa Gonzales	Below is my comment on the plastic bag ordinance published by the Los Alamos Reporter. So to give your input you have to attend the meeting or send an email to ESB@losalamosnm.gov To make it easier and transparent, the county should put out a survey citizens can answer online. Before a decision is made, those results should be made available to all citizens. An email is not a measurable result! I would truly like a response from all email recipients, not a basic email from "on behalf of." The Council needs to be more transparent.	Email
161	Bill Cooper	I am completely against the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance. First they are used multiple times at home also for small trash containers, pet animal waste etc. Does the county really need to be involved in this type of micro management nanny state stuff?? Worry about commercial development, keeping costs and taxes down and affordable housing.	Email
162	Barbara Royer	It took some time to remember to always carry in my reusable bags to the Marketplace; but I have now been doing it for years. We can all adjust..CO did.	Email
163	Jan Macek	The County seems to be focused on banning plastic bags that many residents, including myself reuse even though I use recyclable bags in the supermarket. I use them for garbage and I use them to put items in for Freecycle that people pick up etc. Members of recycling organizations reciprocate when I pick up items. There are so many other plastic items that are detrimental to the environment as well as to living creatures that should be banned. I am really curious why plastic bags are singled out and you are ignoring items like plastic bird netting which is a plastic that lasts for decades and is a trap for many unsuspecting innocent creatures. The Internet is full of dead snakes and so many other animals that are caught in this netting. Pictured is a dead coachwhip in plastic landscape netting. We were too late to save it. Second and third pics are of plastic netting taken off my neighbors yard. They put it on their junipers to keep the deer from eating them during the winter. I asked permission to take it off in the spring since snakes would be emerging soon. What a waste of good money since I destroyed the netting and bagged it up for the garbage. A few years ago I contacted someone in the County when I noticed it in the ditches on San Ildefonso on North Mesa. I sent the gentleman a lot of literature on netting and why it should never be used. So please shift your focus on something that is really bad for the environment. I really hope that I have given you something to think about.	Email

Public Comments for Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (as of July 13, 2026)

#	Name	Comment	Source
164	James Doyle	This has been rejected overwhelmingly by the citizens of Los Alamos multiple times since 2015. Is this yet another attempt to take advantage of citizen fatigue with this topic to ram it down our throats? There are so many more important issues that should be addressed. Forget this issue and focus on more important issues.	Email
165			
166			