

2026⁵ STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Los Alamos County Council, with input from County staff and community members, reviewed and updated the 2024 strategic plan and subsequently adopted ~~these five~~ [goals-focus areas](#) and 22 objectives for 2026⁵. The [goals-focus areas](#) and objectives address issues that are important to the community and the governance of essential functions. They are tools to help maintain a focus on important and challenging issues, ~~but-~~ [they](#) are not all-inclusive of the broad scope of the County's work and investments.

While all 22 objectives are important, the top five rankings in the National Community Survey, conducted in August/September 2024, are effective, efficient, and reliable services; local business; housing; fiscal stewardship; and communication and engagement. Notably, the survey's 74 percent overall rating of County services is a statistically significant increase of 10 percent over the 2022 rating. Highest performing areas are public safety, natural environment, parks and recreation, mobility, and arts and culture. Lowest performing areas are economy (quality and variety of businesses and services), affordability (housing, food, health care and services), and community design (appearance, new development, and housing options).

Concrete actions for addressing each of the 22 objectives will be determined, in the context of community survey input and all ongoing County efforts, for making and communicating progress and identifying challenges throughout the year. Many of the actions will come from existing plans listed at the end of this document, which can be found on the County's website using the search function. An electronic performance dashboard, also available on the County's website, captures the scope of County actions to address each of the objectives and ~~to enable measurements to be assigned and tracked~~ [updated in January 2026](#).

A high-level summary of the progress made toward the 2025 ~~strategie~~ [goals](#) and ~~objectives-priorities~~ [will be provided in the State of the County Annual Report in January 2026⁵](#).

QUALITY GOVERNANCE

Quality governance is participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, accountable, effective, efficient, and responsive to present and future needs of stakeholders.

Communication and Engagement

Inform, engage, and solicit feedback from ~~the~~ community members and affected parties, including boards and commissions, on County projects, policies, and priorities to promote a culture of open communication and collaboration to increase public participation~~help foster exceptional customer service~~.

Intergovernmental, Tribal, and Regional Relations

Collaborate and problem-solve with the County's major employers; community partner organizations; neighboring Pueblos; and regional, state, and ~~national~~ federal governmental entities.

Partnerships

Establish and foster partnership opportunities with local education, health care, and other organizations in support of meeting the community's identified essential needs and improvements.

Fiscal Stewardship

Maintain fiscal sustainability, transparency, and compliance with applicable budgetary and financial regulatory standards.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Operational excellence involves having structures, processes, standards, and oversight in place to ensure that effective services are efficiently delivered within available resources and that services continuously improve to anticipate and meet future needs.

Effective, Efficient, and Reliable Services

Deliver customer-focused, accessible, reliable, and sustainable services to the community through sound financial management, collaborative decision-making, and efficient implementation.

Infrastructure Asset Management

Evaluate the County's assets and infrastructure to prioritize funding to first maintain and protect those investments and to second inform new investments.

Employee Recruitment and Retention

Attract and employ diverse and highly qualified staff, retain staff through development opportunities, [equity and upskilling opportunities](#), and compensation and benefits, and promote staff to address increasingly complex challenges.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Economic vitality encompasses the ability of the community to diversify, develop, grow, and sustain the many elements necessary for a local economy to flourish.

Housing

Increase the capacity for new housing development and the amount and variety of housing types to meet the needs of a changing and growing population, particularly middle- and lower-income households.

Local Business

~~Encourage the retention of existing businesses, facilitate the startup of new businesses, and assist in opportunities for business growth.~~

~~Establish tools and processes that are clear and support businesses' navigation through County regulatory and approval requirements.~~

Downtown Revitalization

Revitalize the downtown areas of Los Alamos and White Rock by facilitating and incentivizing development opportunities ~~in accordance with the downtown master plans.~~

Educational, Arts, Cultural, and Historical Amenities

Promote and enable educational, arts, cultural, and historical enrichment opportunities, in coordination with community partners, and provide for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and the protection of archaeological sites.

Tourism and Special Events

~~Promote tourism.~~ Sponsor special events, ~~and~~ support ~~major employer and~~ community events, ~~and promote tourism~~ by enhancing amenities, utilizing indoor and outdoor facilities, and encouraging local business support and ~~increasing capacity for~~ overnight stays.

Community Broadband

Implement community broadband as a self-sustaining essential service that enables reliable high-speed Internet access throughout the County at competitive pricing.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life is a reflection of general wellbeing and the degree to which community members are healthy, comfortable, welcomed, included, and able to enjoy the activities of daily living.

Health, Wellbeing, and Social Services

Improve-Expand access to behavioral, mental, and physical health and social services and amenities to address identified issues and promote wellbeing in the County and the region.

Inclusion, Access, and Belonging

Promote inclusion, access, and belonging through events and training, facility planning, and expanded opportunities and services for diverse needs and interests.

Mobility

Improve and expand access to, and provide disability accommodation for, alternative modes of travel including public transit, cycling, and walking amenities and services.

Open Space, Parks, and Recreation

Manage, maintain, and improve designated open spaces, parks and recreation facilities, trails, and amenities as defined by adopted plans and approved projects.

Public Safety

Ensure overall community safety through proactive and sustained implementation of police, fire, hazard mitigation, and emergency response plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental stewardship is the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices in coordination with community and organizational partners.

Natural Resource Protection

Take actions to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, safeguard water quality, and mitigate tree loss in the community.

Water Conservation

Reduce potable water use and increase non-potable water use and water harvesting for irrigation where suitable.

~~Greenhouse Gas Reduction~~

~~Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with interim targets of 30 percent reduction by 2030 and 80 percent reduction by 2040.~~

~~Carbon Neutral Energy Supply~~

~~Achieve carbon neutrality in electrical supply by 2040 through diversified carbon-free electric sourcing and phase out natural gas use in County facilities by 2050 and in residences and businesses by 2070.~~

Climate Action and Resiliency

Implement the roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, achieving a carbon neutral energy supply, and increasing climate resilience in Los Alamos County.

Waste Management

~~Promote a circular economy by diverting~~ Divert community waste from landfills through recycling, re-use, composting and waste reduction programs, and zero-waste campaigns.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

losalamosnm.us/reference-docs

Administrative Services

2025–2026 Biennial Budget (FY25, Adopted–FY26, ~~Projected~~[Adopted](#))
2026~~5~~ Budget in Brief (FY26~~5~~ Adopted Budget)
2025~~4~~ Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)
2025~~4~~ Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

Community Development

[2025 East Downtown Los Alamos Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Plan](#)
2024 Los Alamos Affordable Housing Plan
[2023 White Rock Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Plan](#)
2021 Los Alamos Downtown Master Plan
2021 White Rock Town Center Master Plan
2020 North Mesa Housing Study
2019 Los Alamos Housing Market Needs Analysis
2019 Los Alamos County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan
2018 Fuller Lodge Interpretive Plan
2018 Los Alamos Tourism Strategic Plan
2016 Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan
2014 Brand Action Plan
2011 Los Alamos Creative District Plan
2009 Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan
2008 Los Alamos County Historic Preservation Plan

Community Services

[2025 Trails and Open Space Management Plan](#)
2024 Comprehensive Health Plan
2023 Integrated Master Plan
2022 ADA Audit Report
2020–2023 Los Alamos County Library System Strategic Plan
2020 Health Services Gap Analysis Final Report
~~[2015 Open Space Management Plan*](#)~~
~~[2015 Trail Network Signage Plan*](#)~~
~~[2013 Los Alamos County Community Trail Plan*](#)~~
~~[2012 Trail Management Planning Documents*](#)~~
~~**These open space and trail plans will be consolidated into one updated management plan.*~~

County Manager

2024 Communication Plan

2024 Los Alamos Climate Action Plan
2023 Community Broadband Strategic Plan
2022 Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability Task Force Final Report
2022 Racial Equity and Inclusivity Task Force Final Report
2017 Foundation Document—Manhattan Project National Historical Park

Emergency Management

[2024 Los Alamos Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
2023 Continuity of Operations Plan
2023 Emergency Operations Plan
2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Fire

2019-2024 Los Alamos Fire Department Strategic Plan

Public Utilities

FY2026 Strategic Goals & Objectives
2024 Drinking Water Quality Report
2022 Integrated Resource Plan
2022 Water and Energy Conservation Plan
2018 Long Range Water Supply Plan
2014 Electric Reliability plan

Public Works

2026 Snow and Ice Plan
[2025 Pedestrian Master Plan](#)
2023 Facility Condition Reports
2022 Food Waste Composting Feasibility Study
2022 Transit Study
2021 Pavement Management Analysis and Report
2017 Bicycle Transportation Plan
2013 Airport Master Plan
2011 Canyon Rim Trail Master Plan
~~[1998 Pedestrian Transportation Plan](#)~~