

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS CODE ORDINANCE NO. 02-377

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE II, SECTION 26-45 OF THE CODE OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS BY AMENDING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

WHEREAS, the Incorporated County of Los Alamos ("County") is an incorporated county of the State of New Mexico as provided in Section 5, Article 10 of the New Mexico Constitution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 35-14-3, a municipal judge's salary shall be established by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 27 of the New Mexico Constitution forbids any increase or decrease in an elected official's compensation during the elected official's term of office, and

WHEREAS, a new term for the Los Alamos County Municipal Judge shall begin on January 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the amount of compensation currently paid to the Los Alamos County Municipal Judge was established in 2022 pursuant to Ordinance No. 02-331, and has not increased; and

WHEREAS, along with the cost of living, the duties and responsibilities including education and training required of the municipal judge have increased and continue to increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 26-45 of the Code is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-45. Duties and salary.

A. The municipal judge shall devote his or her full time to the duties of the office and shall not have other employment or occupation in conflict therewith. The salary for the municipal judge shall be [~~\$104,604.00~~] \$118,838.00, per annum.

B. The County Council shall review the compensation and salary provided to the Municipal Court Judge no later than December 30, 2029 and no later than December 30 every four years thereafter.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after publication of its notice of adoption however the Municipal Court Judge shall not receive any increase in compensation provided by this Ordinance during the current term of office per N.M. Const. Art. IV, § 27. The increase in compensation shall occur only at the beginning of the next term of the Municipal Court Judge.

Section 3. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this ordinance, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

Section 4. Repealer. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinance or resolution, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

ADOPTED this 6th day of January 2026.

**COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED
COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS**

_____,
Council Chair

ATTEST: (SEAL)

**Michael D. Redondo,
Los Alamos County Clerk**