

**General Information**

All County Board and Commission members must be residents of Los Alamos County. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board members, except the at-large community member, do not need to be residents if they are employed/represent an attraction or hotel.

Once a resident fills out and submits this application, an interview is scheduled with the B&C's County Council liaison, the relevant staff liaison, and the B&C Chair. After the interviews, the applicants' names are presented to the full Council during a regularly scheduled Council meeting, where a vote is taken regarding the appointment of each applicant. Each applicant will be notified if they are appointed or not.

Only on-line applications will be considered.

*If you are interested in applying for Labor Relations Board, please contact Denise Cassel at 505-662-8047.*

**Profile**

Board and Commission Application

Note: Please be aware that as a public entity, the County of Los Alamos, is obligated to furnish this information to the public if requested. Note also that current LANL employees, if appointed to a Board or Commission, may be required by LANL to complete a 701 form.

Jennifer \_\_\_\_\_ Olsen \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Suite or Apt

\_\_\_\_\_

State

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code

**Party affiliation as registered: (Select one of the following) \***

Republican

**Registered to vote in Los Alamos?**

Yes  No

**How did you learn of this Board/Commission vacancy?**

Linda Deck

Jennifer Olsen

**Do you currently serve on any County Board or Commission?**

Yes  No

**If yes, which one? (Los Alamos County law prohibits residents from serving concurrently on more than one County board except as expressly approved in writing by the County Council before the appointment is made.)**

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## **Interests & Experiences**

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Lodgers' Tax Advisory: Submitted

**Why would you like to serve on this particular Board or Commission?**

I have a deep affinity for Los Alamos. My family moved to White Rock in 1978 when I was 7 years old. I grew up in this community. I spent a year as an exchange student sponsored by the Los Alamos Rotary Club before attending NMSU. I was a UGS student at LANL during my college years and returned to LANL for my first full-time professional position. I lived in La Cueva (with an official mailing address of Jemez Springs) before purchasing a second home in Los Alamos when my daughter entered the middle school years. We sold our house and moved into that house full time about 3 years ago. This community has really been at the center of my life. I want to see it continue to be an incredible multi-generational community that also offers a place of respite for tourists and locals alike. We are uniquely situated at the center of 3 National Parks and we are surrounded by incredible multi-use trails that all ages can enjoy. In addition we have a cultural component that is unique. I would like to serve on this particular board in order to help Los Alamos County continue to be a place that is welcoming to both resident and visitor alike.

**What volunteer or professional activities have you participated in that could apply to this appointment?**

I am currently the Operations Manager at the Bradbury Science Museum. Before that I was a guide at the museum for the last 6-7 years working with visitors as well as residents. I've been on the Board at East Park Pool.

**The time involved may be 10-15 hours per month or more. Are you able to serve the volunteer hours and attend training needed to perform your duties as an appointee?**

Yes.

**What would you like to accomplish during your tenure on this Board or Commission? (Please identify any special interests you have that led you to become interested in serving on this Board or Commission.)**

I believe that there are a myriad of issues effecting this county currently. My understanding is that this board helps by staying informed on some of those issues that deal with recreational improvement projects within the county as well as with short term housing options and hotel options in order to make recommendations to the council. Just being able to help inform the council on these issues is what I'd like to be able to do.

**Have you had any direct or indirect involvement with this Board or Commission or with the County staff supporting this Board or Commission or County Councilors? If so, please explain.**

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No

**Are there any issue or matters, financial or otherwise, that you are now or might become involved in that may come before the Board or Commission for which you seek appointment?**

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No

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lai at 505-663-3436 or [barbara.lai@lacnm.us](mailto:barbara.lai@lacnm.us)



**County Manager's Office**  
**BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

Jennifer Olsen  
 Applicant's Name

LTAB  
 Board or Commission

Kelly Stewart  
 Interviewer Name

Fri Dec 3, 2021, 10:15AM  
 Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:  
 ZOOM  
 Telephone

***NOTE TO INTERVIEW PANEL: Please remember to use this interview as an opportunity to share Council's directives and guidance for B&C's.***

#	Question/Documented Response
1	<p>Please tell us a little about yourself and then describe your experience, education, and training that qualify you for this Board or Commission.</p> <p>Moved to Los Alamos in 1978 when dad got job at LASL. Prototype machinists. Moved from Massachusetts. Had terrible allergies and it was a good move for that. Lifer, but eager to get out. Spent a year in Belgium with Rotary abroad program. Attended NMSU and majored in Info Systems and Accounting with a minor in French. Worked at the Lab. Lived in Jemez for 20 years but frequently came to Los Alamos to shop and do kid/family activities. Homeschooled two kids. Bought second home in Los Alamos 7 years ago, and then sold place in the Jemez. Plans to retire in Los Alamos. Has worked part-time as a docent at the Bradbury Science Museum for 5 years and last month was promoted to operations manager full-time. Shops local and participates in many of the community activities. Lived in Los Alamos during the 80s when downtown was much bigger and more vibrant. Knows what the town can be and would like to help realize that potential.</p>
2	<p>What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the County? What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the Board/commission you applied for? [<i>Note to interview panel: If the answer to this question appears to be off base with Council's position, please explore a little more.</i>]</p> <p>Need to look at how to revitalize the downtown area. Attract more small businesses, restaurants, and hotels downtown to create the experience like Salida, CO and other locations in NM. Average occupancy at Los Alamos County lodging establishments is 60-70% - a high figure that usually attracts additional hotels. Aware that the County is seeking to replace the Hilltop and bring other lodging options in.</p> <p>Need to capitalize on our outdoor recreation, our trails network that supports hiking, biking, skiing, sledding – all seasons. Also need to create more of the hospitality amenities—small shops, restaurants and lodging for visitors. County needs to attract additional small shops, restaurants and lodging to round out the experience for visitors.</p>
3	<p>How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?</p> <p>Boards and commissions allow the residents to give their input, share their vision, and help inform the County Council's decisions. Ensures representation of the community's views and desires. Los Alamos has great resources in its people. Los Alamos residents are educated and interested in the community; see the potential. Small town activities are the heart of Los Alamos. Boards can do the legwork for the County Council to help gather and synthesize representative community perspective.</p>
4	<p>What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess?</p> <p>Ability to communicate well—to be able to listen and look at something from another's point of view. Active listening—taking the time to full listen, ponder and clarify understanding. Ability to connect with different groups of people in the community by participating in general community events and activities, as well as special interest clubs, etc. to learn different perspectives, challenges. E.g., conflicts between multiple users (bikers, hikers, runners, equestrians) of our trails network.</p>

	She connects with people in both personal life and via Bradbury—both community and visitors. Active in church and Tuffriders Bike club via husband. Participate in local activities and connect with people you've known all your life.
5	<p>What could you do, specifically, to foster a collaborative relationship between staff and the Board or Commission on which you would like to serve?</p> <p>Would endeavor to listening to what County staff needs from us...asking the right questions...redirecting requests to subject matter experts to get accurate information and fully understand parameters and expectations. Be kind and respectful of everyone in present.</p>
6	<p>Have you served on any Boards, Commissions or Committees (not only County B&amp;Cs – but also church groups, non-profit boards, school committees, etc.) within the last five years? What do you think was your greatest contribution during your tenure?</p> <p>First Lego League team – ran it for 4 years, including robotics night. Continue to work with First Lego League NM and judge Competitions. East Park Pool board, secretary then became an advocate for lifeguards. Weighed cost concerns vs. safety concerns per Red Cross recommendations.</p>
7	<p>Are you familiar with the County Charter and County Code as they apply to the Board you are applying for?</p> <p>Not fully familiar. Anticipate she will learn it as part of joining the board.</p>
8	<p>Are you willing to take the time to attend training sessions to become more knowledgeable about your duties and responsibilities in an advisory capacity?</p> <p>Definitely! Just became Operations Manager full time a month ago. Freed up time and ready to get back involved and volunteering.</p>
9	<p>Are you aware that, as a member of a Los Alamos County Board or Commission, your written communications, including e-mails, are public records (even if produced on your personal computer), and as such are subject to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If any of these public records are requested for review/inspection under the Act you may need to produce them. Is this a deterrent to your willingness to serve on this Board?</p> <p>It isn't. It's expected. Everything you put into some sort of writing is part of the public record.</p>
10	<p>Currently, a few boards or commissions are “live streaming” their meetings (for example, the T-Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.) In the future, this may be required of all boards. If you're applying for one of the boards currently streaming or if it becomes a requirement for all B&amp;Cs to stream, is this - or will this - be a deterrent to your willingness to serve?</p> <p>No.</p>
11	<p><i>[Interview panel: Ask questions you think necessary for clarification of the written answers this applicant provided as part of their application.]</i></p> <p>None.</p>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>Husband serves on Parks &amp; Rec Board. Understands the importance of serving in the area you live and work in. Looks forward to serving.</p>

Notes:



**County Manager's Office**  
**BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

Jennifer Olsen  
 Applicant's Name

LTAB  
 Board or Commission

Linda Deck  
 Interviewer Name

12/3/21  
 Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:  
 ZOOM  
 Telephone

***NOTE TO INTERVIEW PANEL: Please remember to use this interview as an opportunity to share Council's directives and guidance for B&C's.***

#	Question/Documented Response
1	<p>Please tell us a little about yourself and then describe your experience, education, and training that qualify you for this Board or Commission.</p> <p>Here since 1978. Feel life-long...high-school here, 1 yr in Belgium via Rotary sponsorship, grad from NM State... Majored in accounting and systems engineering, minored in French. 7 yrs ago moved back to LA from Jemez where lived 10+ yrs, but Jemez provides interesting focus apart from LA; did much here in LA even tho. Now permanent residence here 3 yrs. Lives downtown. Big proponent of doing things here in LA; knew Foxes well and remembers a vibrant downtown. Knows past and present and thinks about what future could be.</p>
2	<p>What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the County? What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the Board/commission you applied for? [<i>Note to interview panel: If the answer to this question appears to be off base with Council's position, please explore a little more.</i>]</p> <p>Town needs to look at how do we revitalize our downtown...like other small towns in West and a vibrant one brings people in... little shops, etc. Used to have Hilltop House. Lodging, missing others. Now occupancy runs about 60%...Marriott coming is important...B&amp;Bs but they only hold so many. How do we deal with AirBnBs to pay taxes? We have so much to offer with outdoor activities year round; county needs to find equation to attract people with shops, treat places, and of course hotels.</p>
3	<p>How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?</p> <p>B&amp;C allow people who live here to share their vision and provide their input. Citizens have much to contribute and know what we like to do; small town activities define Los Alamos. These people can provide input by serving on B&amp;Cs.</p>
4	<p>What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members?</p> <p>Which ones do you possess?</p> <p>Ability to communicate...listen and look at things from others' POV. Active listening. Not formulating response... will have a chance to get response after. Ability to connect with different people...are you active and do the things your community offers? These are the community's heartbeat and understand what the community offers. Need to be part of the subsets of community...faith-based, sports leagues, etc., to understand their issues. Eg. the use of trails for different activities. She is very active in lots of groups, part of the Bradbury, and interacts with people who come in to visit. Local church, Toughriders mountain bikers. Very much enjoys local events.</p>
5	<p>What could you do, specifically, to foster a collaborative relationship between staff and the Board or Commission on which you would like to serve?</p> <p>Would listen...what does county staff need? Redirect requests to ensure understanding. Be kind and respectful of everyone who she interacts with. And show up to meetings!</p>

6	<p>Have you served on any Boards, Commissions or Committees (not only County B&amp;Cs – but also church groups, non-profit boards, school committees, etc.) within the last five years? What do you think was your greatest contribution during your tenure?</p> <p>First Lego League team...ran it for four years and worked with other teams in area. Part of Robotics Night, still working with First Lego league NM, on boards of East Park Pool. Biggest role there was to be advocate for lifeguards and how budget is spent to address Red Cross requirements. Was part of Los Alamos Homeschool co-op.</p>
7	<p>Are you familiar with the County Charter and County Code as they apply to the Board you are applying for?</p> <p>Not fully familiar...figures she would learn that in position.</p>
8	<p>Are you willing to take the time to attend training sessions to become more knowledgeable about your duties and responsibilities in an advisory capacity?</p> <p>Definitely. And yes, has time to do it. Ready to get back to volunteering.</p>
9	<p>Are you aware that, as a member of a Los Alamos County Board or Commission, your written communications, including e-mails, are public records (even if produced on your personal computer), and as such are subject to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If any of these public records are requested for review/inspection under the Act you may need to produce them. Is this a deterrent to your willingness to serve on this Board?</p> <p>No. Pretty much the environment we all live in now.</p>
10	<p>Currently, a few boards or commissions are “live streaming” their meetings (for example, the T-Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.) In the future, this may be required of all boards. If you’re applying for one of the boards currently streaming or if it becomes a requirement for all B&amp;Cs to stream, is this - or will this - be a deterrent to your willingness to serve?</p> <p>Not a deterrent.</p>
11	<p><i>[Interview panel: Ask questions you think necessary for clarification of the written answers this applicant provided as part of their application.]</i></p>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>Chris (husband) serves on Park and Rec board, so knows some of how it works and commitment. Hope to be selected and looks forward to serving.</p>

Notes:



6	<p>Have you served on any Boards, Commissions or Committees (not only County B&amp;Cs – but also church groups, non-profit boards, school committees, etc.) within the last five years? What do you think was your greatest contribution during your tenure?</p> <p>Not for county. First Lego league. Robotics. East Park pool. Big advocate for guards and Red cross training. Home school coop.</p>
7	<p>Are you familiar with the County Charter and County Code as they apply to the Board you are applying for?</p> <p>No. Will learn.</p>
8	<p>Are you willing to take the time to attend training sessions to become more knowledgeable about your duties and responsibilities in an advisory capacity?</p> <p>Yes. Started full time last month. Finished with homeschool.</p>
9	<p>Are you aware that, as a member of a Los Alamos County Board or Commission, your written communications, including e-mails, are public records (even if produced on your personal computer), and as such are subject to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If any of these public records are requested for review/inspection under the Act you may need to produce them. Is this a deterrent to your willingness to serve on this Board?</p> <p>Yes, knows IPRA. Not a deterrent.</p>
10	<p>Currently, a few boards or commissions are “live streaming” their meetings (for example, the T-Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.) In the future, this may be required of all boards. If you’re applying for one of the boards currently streaming or if it becomes a requirement for all B&amp;Cs to stream, is this - or will this - be a deterrent to your willingness to serve?</p> <p>No problem.</p>
11	<p><i>[Interview panel: Ask questions you think necessary for clarification of the written answers this applicant provided as part of their application.]</i></p>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>None. Want to serve the town.</p>

Notes: