

# Planning & Zoning Commission

Annual Presentation to Los Alamos County Council

May 12, 2026

By. Chair Karen Easton

Planning and Zoning Commissioners: Karen A Easton, Marlon C Brown, Ronald O Nelson, Robert E Chrien, Rebecca White, David Hampton, Rachel M Grimm, Katherine Bruell (One vacancy)

# 2026 Work Plan: Overview

## **Comprehensive Plan**

2.1.1 Participate in the Comprehensive Plan working group, providing input on land use, housing, redevelopment, and infrastructure to ensure alignment with County goals.

## **Commission Continuity & Education**

2.1.2 Continuing education and training focused on zoning intent, Development Code, and voting requirements for quasi-judicial decisions.

2.2.2 Increase Commissioner understanding of land use application processes to enhance review consistency and applicant communication.

# 2026 Work Plan: Overview

## **Development Code Updates**

2.2.1 Support staff in identifying code amendments or procedural updates that align with the forthcoming Comprehensive Plan and simplify implementation for applicants and reviewers.

2.2.3 Evaluate Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) allowances within selected zoning districts to determine potential for expanded housing opportunities while mitigating neighborhood impacts.

2.2.4 Revisit parking requirements in Chapter 16 to evaluate opportunities for right-sizing standards, improving efficiency and understanding the broader impacts on redevelopment and infill development.

# Challenges to Priority Objectives:

## **Balancing Competing Priorities**

- Housing, economic development, mobility, and neighborhood concerns sometimes conflict, requiring careful policy tradeoffs.

## **Onboarding & Training**

- Consistent and structured onboarding framework for new Commissioners. Orientation sessions on Chapter 16, Comprehensive Plan policies, and public hearing procedures are needed to help new Commissioners quickly understand their roles and responsibilities.

# How Can Council Help?