

**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.

Jessie \_\_\_\_\_ Emerson \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Suite or Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Democrat

**Registered to vote in Los Alamos?**

Yes  No

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

Angelica Gurule

**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?**

Environmental Sustainability: Submitted

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

I would like to be a part of creating and maintaining a sustainable and safe ecosystem and environment in my new home, Los Alamos. I believe the Earth and everything upon Her is sacred. I believe modern science and traditional nature based knowledge can work together, blending and unifying to reach the goals of a healthy sustainable environment and community.

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

I am a registered nurse and certified clinical herbalist. My BA degree is "Sustainable Community Development." In 2007 I completed the Ecovillage Design Program, "Training the Trainers " at Findhorn Community, Scotland. In 2008 I taught Sustainable Community Development in the community education department for Santa Fe Community college. I am a long time member of the Sierra Club and have been a boardmember for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. As Zero Waste coordinator I worked with other organizations to Ban Plastic Bags. I have worked with EarthCare and other youth on project ranging from teaching about plant identification and mushrooms to wilderness survival. Recently I started the Embudo Valley Community Seed Library in Dixon. I am the volunteer seed librarian. The seed library offers workshops in seed saving, soil nurturing, how to choose seeds to save and classes in gardening. I have given talks and written articles on toxins in the environment, alternative ways to control insect and weeds, soil and our health .

**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?**

I have recently retired from nursing, teaching at Northern College . My role at the seed library is changing and will be more of a supportive and consultive role. I am available and have the time for the position.

**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.)**

If one has not been done, I could , with the help of the team do a Community Sustainability Assessment, to see where we are, and what are the next steps and plans. We could do a Ecological footprint assessment and waste stream assessments. I would like to be on some of the outreach projects.

**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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I attended the October meeting via zoom.

**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)

# LOS ALAMOS

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

Jessie Merson  
Applicant's Name

ESB  
Board or Commission

Angelica Quinlé  
Interviewer Name

Nov 3, 2021 @ 6pm  
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>Member of Sierra Club. Helped get SF bag ban passed.<br/>RN 5 yrs - retired June. Certified clinical Herbalist.<br/>BA - Sustainable Community Development from Prescott.<br/>Taught Sustainable Community Development @ SF CC.<br/>Finhorn, Scotland learned how to work &amp; train people to be more sustainable.</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? [Note to interview panel: If the answer to this question appears to be off base with Council's position, please explore a little more.]</p> <p>It has got to be Climate Change. This will impact every aspect of our lives.</p>  |
| 3 | <p>How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?</p> <p>What encouraged her to apply was the ESB gathered facts, presented to the public and listened to the people.</p>   |
| 4 | <p>What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess?</p> <p>The skill for listening. Listening &amp; communication are major skills. Have an open mind &amp; don't turn off if you don't agree. Work in cooperation with others.</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>Listen to what staff has to say.<br/>Asking questions to understand how things work.<br/>Keep in touch.</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>Sierra Club<br/>         NM Book Association (planned mtgs, guest speakers, etc)</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>She is familiar.</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. Hopes there is a good training program.</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.</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>Are you familiar with Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, Sustainability Task Force? Not yet.</p>   |
| 12 | <p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>-Asked about Backyard composting program and how to compost in bear country.</p>   |

Notes:

How did City of Santa Fe bag ban play out politically?  
 -She tried to inform & educate as much as possible.  
 She was at lots of events, had facts.



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

Jessie Emerson  
Applicant's Name

Environmental Sustainability Board  
Board or Commission

Erik Loechell  
Interviewer Name

11/3/2021  
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:  
 X  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 June. Lived in Santa Fe. Registered nurse and retired recently. BA in sustainable ecology. Teach Sustainable community development at SF Community college. Wants us to live a sustainable and simple life. Studied sustainability in Scotland. Solar, Wind, Clean your own water. On Board of Santa Fe Northern New Mexico Sierra Club. Zero waste coordinator. Helped Santa Fe plastic single use bag use passed.</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>Climate change is the biggest impact we need to address.</p>   |
| 3 | <p>How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?</p> <p>Getting the facts and opinions from the people and trying to then define scope the county should be run by. Outreach to the community.</p>   |
| 4 | <p>What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess?</p> <p>Skill for listening is one of the most important. She was a listening nurse and feels she knows how to listen to people and communicate with them. One needs to have an open mind and need to listen to all the things people have to say. Not turn off if it doesn't agree with what you believe. Need to be able to work with a bunch of different organizations.</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>Listening to what County has to say and ask a lot of questions to get information to folks as needed. Provide county with input.</p>  |

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| 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>On the board for the New Mexico book associated. Program director and coordinator. Planned meetings and guest speakers. Planned Workshops and plablicity.</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.</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. Hoping you have a good training program.</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.</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. Not necessarily.</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>LARES</p>   |
| 12 | <p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p>  |

Notes:

Applicant: Jessie Emerson  
Interviewer: Sean Williams  
Board: ESB  
Date: Nov 3, 2021, 6:00p

1. moved to LA in June, Santa Fe prior, great-grandmother, retired RN for 57 years, clinical herbalist, BA in sustainable community development, taught same at SFCC, member of Sierra Club, zero waste coordinator in SF, worked on SF's bag ban
2. climate change
3. getting facts together and presenting them, going out to the people, finding out what people want; outreach to everyone, particularly youth
4. skill for listening, applicant has been listening nurse for many years; open mind; ability to cooperate
5. listening and getting and providing information
6. also on board for NM Book Association, program coordinator (similar duties to B&C chair)
7. knows county code for chickens
8. yeah, hoping for good training
9. don't have a problem
10. no
11. member of LARES? no; tale of banning bags? letter-writing, educational programs, extensive outreach, lots of kids presented to SF City Council, going to lots of Council meetings with the facts
12. what are in backyard compost kits? how do people get them? how is composting going with all the wildlife?

-Sean