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## 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 Mary Tapia at 505-662-8040.*

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## Profile

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### Board and Commision 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.

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

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Lodgers' Tax Advisory: Submitted

Conner

First Name

T

Middle Initial

Tharp

Last Name

Street Address

Suite or Apt

 

City

State

Postal Code

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

#### **Registered to vote in Los Alamos?**

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Yes  No

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

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Democrat

**How long have you lived in Los Alamos County?**

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5 years

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

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Via the Los Alamos County Website

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

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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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**Community Service**

**List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served. Include any offices held.**

I tend to work on initiatives that support the well-being of my community, such as leading projects for the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area that promote economic development, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability. My service also extends to my role on the Parent and Family Connections Committee for Little Forest Playschool, where I contribute to supporting the future of early childhood education and family engagement. I actively volunteer with various community organizations that align with my values of economic sustainability and cultural preservation. My involvement on the Santa Fe International Film Festival Granting Committee has allowed me to contribute to the local arts economy by identifying, funding, and supporting filmmakers who bring diverse stories and perspectives to life locally. I also have the honor of serving on the board of Tracks Across Borders Byway, which allows me to promote the cultural and historical significance of the scenic byway while supporting sustainable tourism and regional development. These opportunities have enriched my understanding of service and leadership, and given me a clearer understanding of how to contribute to the well-being of my community.

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**Employment and Education**

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**List your current and past employment experience.**

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Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Espanola, NM Deputy Director 4/2023 - Present - Developed and submitted proposals supporting cultural preservation and economic growth, securing over \$1.1 million in funding to strengthen community resilience and promote long-term well-being. -Secured \$190,000 in grant funding by crafting compelling applications that highlighted cultural and economic initiatives, improving community cohesion and access to resources that enhance social health. -Advocated for federal funding by tailoring communications to convey the cultural and economic benefits of projects to policymakers, underscoring how these initiatives support community health through stable, thriving environments. -Enhanced program sustainability and capacity by creating marketing strategies that diversified funding sources and increased awareness of the organization's cultural and economic impact on social health. -Engaged state and local leaders to discuss community-driven cultural and economic projects, fostering partnerships that indirectly benefit public health through improved economic conditions and preservation of cultural identity. -Facilitated partnerships by securing three MOUs, using clear, persuasive communications that connected cultural programming with community health benefits, like enhanced social engagement. -Ensured marketing compliance with state regulations while communicating the organization's positive impact on cultural and economic health. - Managed federal grant funding and developed transparent marketing materials to communicate project impact, linking cultural and economic development with community health outcomes. -Revitalized internal communication policies by implementing strategic rewrites, which enhanced clarity and reinforced the organization's messaging around cultural, economic, and community health connections. Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery of NM Algodones, NM Patient Care Coordinator/Marketing Coordinator 2019-2022 - Developed and implemented targeted marketing campaigns to promote specialized veterinary services, resulting in increased patient inquiries and client engagement. - Managed social media platforms, creating educational content and posts that increased the clinic's online presence and built stronger client relationships. -Designed and distributed newsletters and promotional materials to inform clients about services, procedures, and special events, improving patient retention. -Coordinated and executed continuing education classes for veterinarians, enhancing communication between veterinary professionals and pet owners to improve understanding of dental care needs. Animal Clinic of Los Alamos Los Alamos, NM Hospital Manager 2017-2019 -Streamlined daily operations by implementing efficient scheduling systems, reducing appointment wait times and improving overall patient flow. -Managed a team of veterinary professionals, overseeing staffing, training, and performance evaluations to maintain high-quality care and customer service. -Led the budgeting and financial oversight, optimizing cost management and increasing profitability while maintaining quality standards. -Developed and enforced compliance protocols for healthcare regulations, ensuring adherence to legal, safety, and ethical standards within the practice. -Enhanced patient experience by improving client communication strategies, including implementing new digital tools for appointment reminders, billing, and follow-up care. New Mexico Alliance of County Health Councils New Mexico Legislative Advocacy and Research Intern Fall 2023-Spring 2024 -Advocated successfully during the New Mexico state legislature for increased funding for the organization, securing critical financial support for its continued operations. -Conducted in-depth research on New Mexico water laws and their impact on communities, with a focus on health, environmental justice, and access to resources. -Collected and analyzed data on how other states manage health councils, comparing them to New Mexico's statewide Department of Health model to identify potential improvements for the state's health council system. -Contributed to strategic discussions aimed at enhancing community health outcomes through legislative and policy engagement.

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**List your current and past education including any professional or vocational licenses or certificates.**

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Master's of Public Health Degree from New Mexico State University with an emphasis in Healthcare Management, Administration, and Policy. Bachelors of Art's Degree from New Mexico State University in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management with Minors in Business Administration and Marketing

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**Interests & Experiences**

ATTACHMENT E

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

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I'm interested in serving on the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board because I have a deep commitment to promoting sustainable tourism and community economic development. With a background in tourism management and experience in nonprofit leadership, I understand how lodging tax funds can enhance both visitor experience and local quality of life. Serving on this Board would allow me to help shape how these resources are allocated to promote our unique cultural, historical, and environmental assets while supporting local businesses. I also see this role as an opportunity to drive initiatives that bolster community wellbeing and economic resilience through tourism.

**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.)**

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If chosen to serve on this committee, I would aim to foster a balanced approach to tourism that serves both residents and visitors. I am particularly interested in using lodging tax funds to support sustainable tourism projects and community events that draw visitors throughout the year. I believe it is best to advocate for projects that highlight the area's cultural and historical resources to strengthen local identity and appeal. I hope to prioritize efforts that have lasting positive impacts on community well-being and economic stability by leveraging my knowledge in tourism and program development.

**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 am in the Leadership Los Alamos 2025 Cohort with Dana Evens (Committee Member) and Ellyn Felton (County Liason).

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

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My education in hotel, restaurant, and tourism management, combined with my current role as Deputy Executive Director of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, has given me an understanding of the impact of local tourism efforts and community engagement. My work on projects ranges from grant funding for Indigenous language programs to entrepreneurial training for artists in underserved areas and showcases my commitment to supporting and enriching local communities. My past experience with lodger's tax grants (on the receiving end from Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Taos Counties), federal and state funding, and community grants will help me bring a well-rounded perspective to discussions on the responsible allocation of lodging tax revenues.

**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?**

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Yes, I am able to serve as many volunteer hours as necessary.

**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, there are not any issues or matters that would be an issue regarding my involvement with the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board.

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**General**

ATTACHMENT E

Conner T Tharp

**Have you ever worked for Los Alamos County?**

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Yes  No

**If yes, please list dates and department.**

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**Are you related to any employee of Los Alamos County?**

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Yes  No

**If yes, please indicate name and relationship.**

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**Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest in connection to your occupation or financial holdings in relation to your responsibilities as a member of the advisory body to which you seek appointment?**

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Yes  No

**If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts.**

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**Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of the Board or Commission to which you seek appointment?**

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Yes  No

**Can you commit to approximately 10-15 hours per month to this Board or Commission to prepare for and attend monthly meetings and training as needed?**

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Yes  No

**Are you willing to participate in Board and Commission meetings that are recorded and may be live-streamed?**

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Yes  No

**Are you willing to have your name listed on the County Boards and Commissions public webpage?**

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Yes  No

If you have any questions, please contact Adrienne Lovato at 505-662-8293



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

Conner Tharp  
Applicant's Name

Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board  
Board or Commission

Jennifer Olsen  
Interviewer Name

11:30 a.m. November 18, 2024  
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:  
 Personally  
 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>Serve as Deputy Director of the National Heritage Area – Santa Fe, Taos, and Rio Arriba Counties. Lives in White Rock.</p> <p>Preserve and Protect Cultural Resources. Two Bachelor Degrees.</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>Issues – High Quality of Life – Gaps in Healthcare access and support for local business.</p> <p>LTAB – Balancing Tourism and Protecting Los Alamos's Cultural Resources – Sustainable Tourism</p>
3	<p>How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?</p> <p>Change happens on a grassroots level. The board is the bridge between the Community and the County Staff and County Council</p>
4	<p>What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess?</p> <p>Open Communication. Respect for Staff Input. Knowing the difference between governing and managing. Collaboration on goals Adaptability.</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>Open Communication. Collaboration. Clear Expectations. Knowing the difference between staff and board roles.</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>Trucks across borders bi-way. Parent Family Connections board at Little Forest Playschool. Grants advisory community. Bringing her perspective and experience.</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>Connor read the workplan. Trying to familiarize as much as possible.</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</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>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>Quorum.</p>

Notes:



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

Conner Tharp  
Applicant's Name

Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board  
Board or Commission

David Reagor  
Interviewer Name

11:30 a.m. November 18, 2024  
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:  
 Personally  
 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>Work for national heritage area. Lives in White Rock. Part of NPS initiative Served on SF film festival board.</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>Mixing high quality of life with lack of health care services. Need to use funds to enhance tourism experience</p>
3	<p>How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?</p> <p>Grassroots are necessary to guide the county. Especially transparency and</p>
4	<p>What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess?</p> <p>Open communication. Need to manage instead of govern.</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>Open communication. Collaboration on goals,</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>Served on Track across borders byway. Chama and Dulce Served on Little Forest parent board.</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>Read Work Plan.</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.</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. 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>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>How do you decide on funding various items? Supplies, Printing,</p>

Notes:



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

Conner Tharp  
Applicant's Name

Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board  
Board or Commission

Shanna Sasser  
Interviewer Name

11:30 a.m. November 18, 2024  
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:  
 Personally  
 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>She has worked on the Northern Rio Grande Historic Conservation Area. Masters in public administration of public health, She has experience with outdoor marketing and is on the Film Festival Board.</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>There are gaps in community engagement and lack of access to health care.</p>
3	<p>How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?</p> <p>Grassroots level change- transparency and alignment of community goals.</p>
4	<p>What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess?</p> <p>Open communication, goal setting, collaboration and adaptability</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>She could help establish goals and promote collaboration.</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>Yes, she has served on Tracks Across Borders, Rural Tourism, and Parent Family Connection Board.</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>Yes, she read the workplan and reviewed the budget proposal.</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</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?</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>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>Yes, she asked about the disbursement of funding and the application process.</p>

Notes: