

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.

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.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning and Zoning Commission: Submitted

Jennifer _____ Best _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

_____ Suite or Apt _____
Street Address

Los Alamos _____ NM _____ 87544
City State Postal Code

_____ Email Address

_____ Alternate Phone _____
Primary Phone

Registered to vote in Los Alamos?

Yes No

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

Other

How long have you lived in Los Alamos County?

since July 2016

How did you learn of this Board/Commission vacancy?

Los Alamos County website

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.)

Personnel Board

Community Service

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

Volunteer Coordinator, Jacksonville NC Habitat for Humanity (2006-2008) Case Worker volunteer, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (2006-2007) various volunteer positions with military spouse organizations (2004-2016) Board Member, Los Alamos Arts Council (2019-2021) Vice President, Los Alamos Arts Council (2020-2021) Treasurer, Barranca Mesa Pool Association (2019-present) Volunteer Coordinator, Los Alamos Makers (2025-present) Member, Los Alamos County Personnel Board (2025-present) Member, Los Alamos Early Childhood Collaboration (2025-present)

Employment and Education

List your current and past employment experience.

2002-Present: Paralegal (previously full-time, currently independent/self employed less than 10 hours/week) 2005-Present: Postpartum Doula (self employed, less than 10 hours/week)

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

A.A.S. Paralegal Studies B.S. Legal Studies (in progress)

Interests & Experiences

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

I believe strongly in being involved in the community. Supporting County Boards through volunteering is crucial in ensuring their missions remain relevant, and also so that community members stay informed and engaged in local happenings.

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 am committed to working collaboratively with fellow board members. My focus will be on actively supporting the respective board's mission within our community. I believe in the value of feedback from others, and am dedicated to practicing engaged listening and effective problem-solving.

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.

None known.

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

As a postpartum doula, I am with families in their homes during the vulnerable "fourth trimester." I often see, in real time, where gaps exist between healthcare systems and local resources, and the realities families face--including challenges related to recovery, feeding, mental health, and access to support. My background as a paralegal has helped me to be familiar with contracts, laws and ordinances, etc., and maintain high attention to detail. I am also an avid reader.

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.

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?

None known.

General

Have you ever worked for Los Alamos County?

Yes No

If yes, please list dates and department.

Are you related to any employee of Los Alamos County?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate name and relationship.

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?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts.

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

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?

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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



County Manager's Office
BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Jennifer Best
Applicant's Name

Planning & Zoning Commission
Board or Commission

Karen Easton
Interviewer Name

May 19, 2026 11:30am
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:
Personally
Telephone
Remote/Teams

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

Table with 2 columns: #, Question/Documented Response. Contains 5 rows of interview questions and answers.

	Curiosity, love to learn, attention to detail. Enjoy collaboration to solve problems.
6	<p>What other community and/or civic activities have you been involved in?</p> <p>Grew up volunteering. Political volunteer, habitat for humanity, military spouse support orgs. Los Alamos Art Council board, LAC personnel board, Passionate about volunteering in community.</p>
7	<p>Do you have any questions about the expectations included in the application?</p> <p>Meetings 1 – 2 monthly</p>
8	<p>Do you have any other questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>NA</p>

Notes:

LOS ALAMOS

County Manager's Office BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Jennifer Best
Applicant's Name

Planning & Zoning Commission
Board or Commission

Suze Havemann
Interviewer Name

May 19, 2026 11:30am
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:
 Personally
 Telephone
 Remote/Teams

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, especially your experience and background related to this board/commission.</p> <p>Lived in LA ~10 yrs. Has worked as a para-legal, likes delving into complex themes, analyzing data. works also as a part-time Sula to help w/ baby delivery.</p>
2	<p>Why would you like to serve on this board/commission?</p> <p>passionate about giving back to the community. Very curious about this subject; knows this could be a big year for P&Z; her man worked in zoning in Mustang, OK.</p>
3	<p>What do you believe are the major issues facing this board/commission?</p> <p>A universal challenge: balancing time. planning, permits, downtown plans, etc.</p>

4	<p>How would you approach a situation where the proposed project complies with the Development Code, but you personally disagree with the project or feel it does not align with community sentiment?</p> <p>Have to recognize everyone has a bias but this is not the place for that; rules are the rules; set opinions aside & apply them. Has exper. w/ this as a Jula.</p>
5	<p>What do you feel you could contribute to this board/commission?</p> <p>A lot of curiosity; loves to learn. Attention to detail; collaborating w/ others to solve probs & move fwd.</p>
6	<p>What other community and/or civic activities have you been involved in?</p> <p>Grew up volunteering! Instilled by her parents, political campaigns; Habitat for Humanity; military spouse activities; LA Arts Council (VP) Personnel Board for LAC; Early Childhood Collaboration.</p>
7	<p>Do you have any questions about the expectations included in the application?</p> <p>No - understands the expectations.</p> <p>Barranca Pool/Treas; Los Alamos Matters.</p>
8	<p>Do you have any other questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>NO - big smile.</p>

Notes: Chair Easton explained the responsibilities & expectations for quasi-judicial hearings & decisions can only be made based on evidence presented in packets & at meetings. Members are Judges.

LOS ALAMOS

County Manager's Office BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Jennifer Best
Applicant's Name

Danyelle Valdez

Interviewer Name

Planning & Zoning Commission
Board or Commission

May 19, 2026 11:30am
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:
 Personally
 Telephone
 Remote/Teams

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, especially your experience and background related to this board/commission.</p> <p><i>Lived in LA. 10 years. Paralegal Code Analysis, Complex Complex Issues.</i></p>
2	<p>Why would you like to serve on this board/commission?</p> <p><i>Passionate about giving back to the community, wants to understand community development more, wants to be apart of the process and knows the importance of the Comprehensive Plan ^{future} Planning.</i></p>
3	<p>What do you believe are the major issues facing this board/commission?</p> <p><i>Balancing an goals, and development.</i></p>

4	<p>How would you approach a situation where the proposed project complies with the Development Code, but you personally disagree with the project or feel it does not align with community sentiment?</p> <p>Recognize bias but has no place in situation, opinions need to be set aside and rules need to be applied.</p>
5	<p>What do you feel you could contribute to this board/commission?</p> <p>Curiosity, research, legal background. Ensures details are in order. Enjoys solving problems.</p>
6	<p>What other community and/or civic activities have you been involved in?</p> <p>Volunteering: Political Campaigns, Habitat for Humanity, Arts Council board Personable board, Early Childhood Collaboration, Various boards: Military Spouses, Case worker for Military Treasurer for pool.</p>
7	<p>Do you have any questions about the expectations included in the application?</p> <p>N/A.</p>
8	<p>Do you have any other questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>No.</p>

Notes: Recommendation: KE - yes.
 SH - yes.
 DV yes