

Voting Information
Statewide Candidates
Local Candidates

Los Alamos

VOTER

PRIMARY

Guide

2024



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Los Alamos Voter Guide 2024 Primary Election

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization for men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

As a non-partisan organization, the League does not support, oppose, or make recommendations regarding any political party or candidate.

Essential Dates

Voter Registration Closes

Tuesday, May 7 Applications must be received by 5 pm at the County Clerk's office in the Los Alamos County Municipal Building or online through the NM Secretary of State Portal (NMVote.org) by 11:59 p.m. **This is also the final date you can change your affiliation from one major party to another.**

Same Day, In-person Voter Registration. The voter must register and vote on the same day in this period.
Tuesday, May 7 thru Friday, May 17 Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.
Saturday, May 18 thru Saturday, June 1 Monday thru Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm.
Tuesday, June 4, 7 am to 7 pm.

Absentee Voting by Mail

Tuesday, May 7. Absentee ballots will begin to be mailed out. Registered voters wishing to vote absentee by mail must request an absentee ballot application. The last day to request an absentee ballot is **May 21**. You can request your absentee ballot in person, download a mailable form from the Clerk's website,

or apply online at NMVote.org. Absentee ballots can be dropped off at any scheduled polling place during voting hours or at the County Clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be received at the Clerk's office by 7 pm **June 4**.

Early Voting in Person

Tuesday, May 7 thru Friday, May 17 Monday thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

Los Alamos County Municipal Building - Council Chambers

Early Voting in Person (continued)

Saturday, May 18 thru Saturday, June 1 Monday thru Saturday from 8 am to 6 pm

Los Alamos County Municipal Building - Council Chambers
White Rock Town Hall – Training Rooms

Monday, June 5 - Voting is CLOSED

Election Day, Tuesday, June 4.

Vote Centers open 7 am to 7 pm. Registered voters of Los Alamos County may vote at **any** of the following Vote Centers on Election Day:

Los Alamos County Municipal Building - Council Chambers
White Rock Town Hall – Conference Training Rooms
Golf Course Community Building – Multi-Purpose Room
Betty Ehart Senior Center – Downstairs Classroom
University of New Mexico-Los Alamos – Building 2, Room 230

Voting Information

You **must be registered to vote by May 7** (June 4 if using same-day in-person registration) to vote in this election. If you have moved or changed your address or your party affiliation, you should re-register to vote. The County Clerk's office is in the County Municipal Building at

1000 Central Ave, Suite 240, 505-662-8010. Application may be made in person, by mail, or online.

For **same-day in-person voter registration only**, the applicant must appear in person at the County Clerk's office or at any scheduled voting site, and immediately before voting shall provide one of the following:

- a New Mexico driver's license or New Mexico identification card;
- any document that contains an address in the county together with a photo identification card; or
- a current valid student photo identification card from a post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico accompanied by a current student fee statement that contains the student's address in the county.

For mail-in registration only, if the applicant is registering for the **first time in New Mexico**, he or she must submit a copy of one of the following types of identification showing both the name and the New Mexico address of the applicant:

- a current and valid photo ID such as a driver's license (note that the DMV can issue similar IDs to non-drivers)
- a utility bill
- a bank statement
- a government check, paycheck or other government document.

No identification is required if a voter is merely changing their registration (name, address and/or party affiliation) within the state of New Mexico.

The on-line portal (www.NMVote.org) is only available to those individuals who have been issued a New Mexico Driver's License or Identification Card.

When voting at the Vote Center, you will be asked for your name, address as registered, and year of birth. If you cannot provide this information orally, or if you registered by mail, you will be asked for one of the above forms of identification. With the exceptions noted above, no physical voter identification is required at the poll.

Sample ballots will be available at the County Clerk's office, at the Mesa Public Library, and online at www.losalamosnm.us/clerk or www.NMVote.org.

Since electioneering within 100 feet of polling places is prohibited, and since displaying buttons, t-shirts, hats, or other such items is considered electioneering, voters are reminded not to display these items when voting at any Early Voting site or Vote Center.

Information Online

The LWVLA Primary Election Voter Guide 2024 is available at www.lwvlosalamos.org. You can also visit the website VOTE411.org for an interactive look at your ballot and all of the candidates' responses.

Local voting information is available on the Los Alamos County Clerk's website at www.losalamosnm.us/clerk.

Candidate Responses to Questions from the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos sent questionnaires to all Los Alamos candidates for the 2024 Primary Election, and all candidates are reported here.

Because of space restrictions, the League advised the candidates that the length of the responses would be limited. The responses of candidates are printed as received by the

League other than possibly being truncated at the maximum permitted length or removing excess white spaces. We have in no way edited for meaning, grammar, or spelling. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply.

In this Voter Guide, candidates are listed in ballot order. Candidate order within each office was determined by a public alphabet randomization.

Thanks

We would like to thank the League

of Women Voters of New Mexico Voter Guide Editor Edwina Jaramillo. The editor of the Los Alamos Voter Guide is Lynn Jones, with the help of Akkana Peck and Rosmarie Frederickson. Thank you also to the United States League of Women Voters for the support of our on-line

Voter Guide at VOTE411.org. The Los Alamos County Clerk's office and the Secretary of State's office provided necessary and helpful information.

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Candidate Questions And Answers

President of the United States

The President of the United States is the head of state and head of government of the United States of America. The president directs the executive branch of the federal government and is the commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces.

Joseph R Biden

(Democrat)

Marianne D Williamson

(Democrat)

Uncommitted Delegate

(Democrat)

Lars Mapstead

(Libertarian)

Uncommitted Delegate

(Libertarian)

Chris Christie

(Republican)

Nikki Haley

(Republican)

Vivek Ramaswamy

(Republican)

Donald J Trump

(Republican)

Uncommitted Delegate

(Republican)

United States Senator

Candidates must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which elected. The United States Senate has 100 members. Two United States Senators are elected to six-year staggered terms by the entire state. One New Mexico Senate seat is up for election this year.

Martin Heinrich

(Democrat)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Nella Louise Domenici

(Republican)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

United States Representative District 3

Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen of seven years, and a resident of New Mexico. The United States House of Representatives has 435 members of which New Mexico is entitled to three. They serve two-year terms. District 3 includes Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and most of the northern part of the state.



Teresa Leger Fernandez

(Democrat)

1. Why do you want to run for this seat?

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God's plan is for us to prosper, have hope and a future. My job in Congress is to help create that prosperity, hope and future for NM by creating opportunity and investing in hard-working families. I'm running for reelection because I want to continue to fight for our communities. In Congress, I have secured billions in funding for infrastructure, broadband, manufacturing; millions for community projects, including

clean water projects; invested the most in rural America since the New Deal; passed the largest climate investments in U.S. history, and lowered prescription drug prices. I represent New Mexicans, regardless of party, and I know that together we can build a prosperous, hopeful future for us all.

2. What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?

We must expand access and bring down energy and health care costs. We must address income inequality where the wealthiest CEOs and corporations don't pay their fair share. We must make housing affordable so our families can live in the communities they love. We also face a grave threat to our democracy as the Republican presidential candidate has denied elec-

Vote

tion results, proclaimed he would be a dictator on day one, and would seek revenge on political opponents. We must protect women's freedom to reproductive health care. Women need health care, not handcuffs. We must also address Social Security to ensure the promise we have made to working Americans who have paid into the system is kept for generations to come.

3. How would you address them?

I'd lower healthcare costs by expanding prescription drug caps, increasing access to healthcare in rural NM, and strengthening the Affordable Care Act. The wealthiest and corporations must pay their fair share and we must make the Child Tax Credit permanent. I've introduced a Home Of Your Own Act and funded homeownership programs for NM. To protect democracy and voting rights we must pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the key provisions in it I authored for tribal voters. I cosponsored the Women's Health Protection Act and will fight Republicans' attempt to enact a federal abortion ban. I cosponsored Social Security 2100, which would have the wealthiest pay Social Security taxes, increase benefits, and keep the program solvent.

4. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?

We need to reform our broken immigration system, which includes strengthening the security of our borders and providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and law-abiding undocumented workers currently in our country. Reforming our immigration system would be a \$1.3 trillion dollar benefit to the US economy. My first year in Congress the House passed on a bipartisan basis the American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Worker Modernization Act, and the No Ban Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion. Sadly, extreme Republicans blocked these bipartisan measures and recently House Republicans and Trump killed another bipartisan border deal. We need solutions not political maneuvering on this important issue.

5. What, if anything, would you do to improve the functioning of Congress?

I was trained as a rebellious lawyer. Which means, I was trained to listen. I have taken this with me to Congress - where I both bring the voices and learnings of our NM communities and do the work to listen to my

colleagues and find common ground where possible. The more we listen to each other, the more I believe we can get done. The vast majority of the legislation I have introduced and passed in the House and into law was bipartisan. Fundamentally, though - we also must recognize that the functioning of our Congress is tied to our access to democracy. We must protect and reform our democracy and ensure that every single eligible voter can access the ballot box. That is how we ensure that our democracy works for all of us.



Sharon E. Clahchischillie
(Republican)

1. Why do you want to run for this seat?

There is a lack of representation in preserving the voice and livelihood of New Mexico constituents from out of touch politicians and failed leadership,

2. What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?

Inflation, over regulation, decline of quality education, affordable and available health services, effective land management, water and agricultural advocacy and the funnel orchestrated by the progressive agenda, at the border.

3. How would you address them?

Advocate for minimizing over regulation, shutting down the border, and only allowing for strict, vetted legal immigration. This will stop illegal human and drug trafficking that are destroying New Mexico's communities.

4. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?

Address the laws regarding the border and enforce them.

5. What, if anything, would you do to improve the functioning of Congress?

Win the Congressional District 3 election! Encourage congressional members to minimize their obsessions with personal agendas and concentrate on addressing the needs of their constituents.

NM State Senator District 5

There are 42 members in the New Mexico Senate. All seats will be filled in the 2024 election. In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem. Los Alamos is split into two Senate Districts. Senate District 5 includes Los Alamos townsite.

Senate District 6 includes White Rock.



Leo Jaramillo
(Democrat)

1. How can New Mexico improve access to physical and mental health care services?

There are so many New Mexicans who do not have adequate access to healthcare and others who are finding themselves in medical debt. As a legislature, we need to expand and protect access to healthcare, including protecting pre-existing conditions, while also keeping out-of-pocket healthcare costs down. When it comes to mental health care, we need to treat it as we do physical health care. We need to embed

behavioral health care specialists within the primary care setting.

2. What legislation would you support to reduce violent crime and improve public safety?

I would support legislation which prioritize rehabilitation programs to improve safety. Legislation which would establish incentives for eligible incarcerated individuals to participate in job and educational training, which has been proven not only to better prepare people leaving prison for the workforce, but also to reduce recidivism, save taxpayer dollars, and increase public safety. States like Minnesota and Ohio have seen an up to 20 percent drop in recidivism for people who participated.

3. How can we protect New Mexico’s economic future considering the reduced availability of water?

The state needs to develop a strategy which will require coordination with local, tribal, and federal partners to assist in developing new water through recycling and desalination while also improving all water management actions with better data, forecasting, conveyance, and administration of water rights. I believe it is critical that New Mexico must invest in water recycling projects.

4. Do you support a paid legislature and/or longer legislative sessions? Why or why not?

I support a paid legislature and served as the Senate Sponsor of the house bill two years ago which proposed a constitutional amendment which would provide legislative salaries. I believe that a paid legislature would make elected office more accessible to people of limited economic means which would help us diversify the House and Senate. I also support a longer legislative session. Longer session would allocate adequate time to write, debate and pass new laws.

5. What are the biggest problems facing New Mexico? How can they be addressed?

Affordable housing is a major issue we are facing in New Mexico. We must continue to invest in the Casa Connection Grant Program which provides

housing for vulnerable populations, addressing homelessness and removing barriers to affordable housing. Fentanyl is also a major crisis; Increase access to mental health care and in preventing and treating opioid addiction, with funding for community-based prevention and treatment efforts, expanding health care instructor, and harm reduction services.

NM State Senator District 6

There are 42 members in the New Mexico Senate. All seats will be filled in the 2024 election. In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact “reasonable and appropriate laws,” represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem. Los Alamos is split into two Senate Districts. Senate District 5 includes Los Alamos townsite. Senate District 6 includes White Rock.

Roberto ‘Bobby’ Jesse Gonzales
(Democrat)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NM State Representative District 43

There are 70 members of the N.M. House of Representatives. All seats will be filled in the 2024 election. In addition to other duties prescribed by law, representatives enact “reasonable and appropriate laws,” represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem and mileage; there is also a pension program for legislators serving a minimum period. The 43rd District includes Los Alamos and parts of Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties.



Christine Chandler
(Democrat)

1. How can New Mexico improve access to physical and mental health care services?

Long-standing challenges require multi-pronged, coordinated policy initiatives. The legislature is addressing the provider shortage, but more needs to be done. Implementing measures that include: student loan forgiveness programs that encourage providers to locate in areas with the most need; expanded tax credits for critically needed providers; expanded educational programs

to increase the number of New Mexicans training for all medical professions. Incentive and retention strategies are key.

2. What legislation would you support to reduce violent crime and improve public safety?

Improve Extreme Risk Protection Order law and train police on its effective use. Enact other gun safety laws shown to reduce gun violence. Prioritize incarceration of the truly dangerous and implement alternate sentencing and diversion programs that provide drug and behavioral health treatment, and job training. Focus on programs that are evidence-based and data driven. The data and evidence have shown us that the so-called tough on crime proposals fail us time and time again.

3. How can we protect New Mexico's economic future considering the reduced availability of water?

Enact laws that regulate and minimize access to and use of excessively large quantities of fresh water by industrial users by encouraging alternatives. This could include desalination initiatives and produced water reuse in the oil fields. Complete an assessment of water availability and implement regional water plans that address water use on a regional basis and tied to the conditions relevant to the area. The state is acting on inadequate data which hampers its ability to plan effectively.

4. Do you support a paid legislature and/or longer legislative sessions? Why or why not?

Yes. New Mexico is the only state in the country with an unpaid, volunteer legislature. Many citizens cannot afford to leave their jobs for extended periods to serve. As a result, we lack an elected body that reflects the economic and ethnic diversity that would include many more perspectives and life experiences. Longer sessions will improve the legislature's ability to study and debate legislation. We need to eliminate the governor's exclusive role in setting the short session agenda.

5. What are the biggest problems facing New Mexico? How can they be addressed?

Poverty is the underlying cause of nearly every challenge facing New Mexico and its citizens. The legislature is addressing it through an array of efforts that include increasing support for low income families, Pre-K, early childhood and child care programs. The state is a leader in implementing changes to the tax

code in ways that support working families. This includes the Working Families Tax Credit and the Child Income Tax Credit, measures that have been shown to reduce poverty.



Chris Luchini
(Libertarian)

1. How can New Mexico improve access to physical and mental health care services?

Remove the GRT on health care services. Zoning reform to allow micro clinics in all areas.

2. What legislation would you support to reduce violent crime and improve public safety?

There should be a radical reduction in traffic enforcement officers, and those positions changed into detective/ investigator positions. The 90/10 rule applies

to crime, identifying and apprehending the violent criminals, and the professional property criminal will dramatically reduce crime. Incentivize responsible firearm storage. 89% of firearms traced to crime in New Mexico, originated from theft. Establish a \$50M Tax credits for the purchase of gun safe.

3. How can we protect New Mexico's economic future considering the reduced availability of water?

Government should lead by example: xeriscaping everything except a few parks. Transitioning residential water use to a extremely progressive price for water will incentivize homeowner conservation. The price of water directly affects its consumption. A complete reform of the water right system. A New Mexico is required, given that there are many, many times more paper water rights than there is wet water.

4. Do you support a paid legislature and/or longer legislative sessions? Why or why not?

Yes, a paid legislature with salary linked to a exponential function of median income. A longer legislative session is not needed, there is an enormous amount of wasted time and political posturing and performance in the existing session.

5. What are the biggest problems facing New Mexico? How can they be addressed?

You get less of what you tax, you get more of what you subsidize. We tax business success by taxing gross receipts. Eliminate the GRT on all services, the surplus will more than cover this. We have enormous amount of intellectual talent in the state state, that leave once they start a business that brings in revenue. Eliminate all occupational licensing that isn't grounded in legitimate public safety. Hairdressers having to do 1600 hours of training is absolutely insane.

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Phillip Michael Mach

(Libertarian)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Public Education Commissioner District 4

The Public Education Commission is a ten-person commission that is advisory to the Secretary of Education. The Commission authorizes and monitors all state-chartered charter schools. Commissioners must reside in the district he/she represents. There are four-year staggered terms. Districts 1, 4, 8, 9 and 10 are up for election in 2024.



Rebekka Kay Burt

(Democrat)

1. Why are charter schools necessary?

Charter schools offer families and students the freedom to choose the educational environment that best suits their needs, regardless of financial status or residential location. In New Mexico, all charters are tuition-free and public, ensuring accessibility to diverse educational programs not typically found in traditional neighborhood schools. This expands opportunities for students and promotes equity in education.

2. What experience do you have that gives you insight into whether to charter a new school or renew a charter school?

With experience as a middle school English teacher and working in the Public Education Department, I've gained firsthand insight into the positive impact of high expectations on student achievement. I've visited numerous schools across NM, distinguishing between successful and struggling institutions. This background equips me to assess whether to charter a new school or renew an existing one based on their potential to meet student needs and deliver quality education.

3. What criteria are most important in evaluating new or existing charter schools?

The most important criteria in evaluating new or existing charter schools include academic performance, student growth and achievement, adherence to educational standards, curriculum quality, teacher qualifications and retention, parent and community satisfaction, financial stability, and overall organizational effectiveness. These factors collectively ensure that charter schools are providing high-quality education and effectively serving their students and communities.

District Attorney 1st Judicial District

New Mexico District Courts handle civil suits involving real estate or claims over \$10,000, juvenile cases, divorce and child custody, criminal felony cases, and appeals from lower courts. The 1st Judicial District of

New Mexico includes Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties. District Attorneys serve a four-year term.



Mary Virginia Carmack-Altewies

(Democrat)

1. What are your qualifications for this position?

I have had the honor of serving as New Mexico's First Judicial District Attorney since January 2021. With expertise in criminal law, I have seen both sides of the courtroom, working as a public defender and running my own practice. As DA, I carry a caseload and have prosecuted all kinds of cases. Since I took office, we have: Won over 95% of our homicide and violent crime prosecutions, including cases against

child abusers, sex offenders, and rapists. Increased our DWI conviction rate to over 85%. When I took office, the DA's office had a DWI conviction rate of under 40%. Cleared years-old backlogs in rape kit prosecutions, police-involved shootings, and homicides. I am a graduate of University of New Mexico School of Law.

2. What are your highest priorities for this office?

We have turned around the District Attorney's office in three years time, and I want to expand on the work we have started and develop new programs and processes to keep our community safe. We especially need to increase prosecution and sentencing for gun crimes and address mental health challenges. We've had such incredible success winning cases with our complex crime unit that we're expanding it to include a greater number of crimes. To combat crime at its root, we're starting a juvenile justice project that will give wraparound services to juveniles to keep them out of our criminal justice system as adults. True to my campaign promise in 2020, we've also expanded diversion programs and plan to continue their expansion and effectiveness.

3. How do you intend to accomplish them?

We've cleaned up outdated systems and implemented modernized, effective systems that will enable us to accomplish the work we set out to do. I intend to continue to implement the most effective systems to ensure our work is impactful. I'm working to implement systems that also will allow us to integrate with our law enforcement and community partners. We need to fight violent crime by getting guns out of the hands of criminals and supporting common sense gun violence prevention. We must work with the legislature to secure more funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment. I am working to secure more funding to ensure we are paying attorneys and staff competitively to recruit and retain the best and brightest in the field.

4. What, if any, alternatives to incarceration do you support for non-

violent crimes?

First, to be clear: violent crimes must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law to keep violent criminals off the streets. Non-violent crimes are often symptoms of societal issues like poverty, homelessness, behavioral health, and substance use. After I took office, we expanded diversion programs to pre-trial, pre-sentencing, and post-sentencing diversion and expanded our diversion partners. We will continue to pursue new partners for diversion and work to ensure diversion is used in all cases where it will be beneficial. As stated above, we need to work with the Legislature to secure more treatment for mental health and substance abuse. Treatment is not possible if no beds are available.



Marco Peter Serna
(Democrat)

1. What are your qualifications for this position?

Career prosecutor for 14 years. I practiced as Assistant District Attorney and Deputy District Attorney in Valencia and Sandoval Counties, Assistant Attorney General under the King and Balderas administrations, and Chief Deputy District Attorney in Taos County, where I was instrumental in establishing the domestic violence family court. I am the former First Judicial District Attorney, serving from 2017-2021. Most

recently, I was the special counsel and acting director for the Administrative Office of District Attorneys for the State of New Mexico. I specialize in domestic violence prosecution and have prosecuted everything from a DWI misdemeanor to capital murder cases. I have the experience and passion needed to lead the DA's office.

2. What are your highest priorities for this office?

Accountability - we need to maintain the integrity of the office, starting with addressing the over 400 DWI case backlog. This is a crucial public safety issue that needs to be prioritized and fixed. Transparency - the public has a right to know how we as public servants perform and I will ensure an open door to my office. Management - with a limited budget, the DA's office must manage its resources wisely and trust in its prosecutors to perform at a high level, regardless of who the defendant may be. Teamwork - we cannot provide criminal justice without working together with our law enforcement officers. Rather than playing the blame game, we need to rebuild trust and create a team that works together.

3. How do you intend to accomplish them?

Accountability - I will appoint a team of prosecutors/investigators to prioritize eliminating the backlog of DWI cases. Transparency - cases like the obelisk, which greatly impact our community, will not be shrouded under a veil of secrecy and any public concern, good, bad, or indifferent, will be publicly discussed by myself personally. Management - I will not outsource high profile cases to special prosecutors and private PR firms

at the expense of the taxpayer, but instead will trust in my office and my team. Teamwork - I will ensure liaisons between my office and law enforcement will work as a team to constructively solve any issues that may arise.

4. What, if any, alternatives to incarceration do you support for non-violent crimes?

First and foremost, let's address addiction and mental health, and how they correlate specifically with property crimes, which has been running rampant in our communities. In order to do so, we must lobby for resources that will rebuild the mental health infrastructure in the state. In addition, we need to focus on diversionary courts that keep people out of jail and working and incentivizes them to be productive members of society. Lastly, we need to establish legitimate reentry programs from prison to reduce recidivism.

Los Alamos County Clerk

The Los Alamos County Clerk's office handles voter registration and runs elections. It is also responsible for recording and filing public documents, issuing marriage licenses, maintaining official documents for the County Council such as Ordinances, Resolutions, and Council Minutes and serves as Clerk to the Probate Court. The County Clerk serves a four-year term.



Michael D Redondo
(Democrat)

1. What do you consider to be the greatest challenges for the Office of the County Clerk?

Of the many challenges facing the Office of the County Clerk, I plan to focus on confirming that our elections are being conducted in a way that is free, fair, and transparent. I have also noticed that there has been high turnover in staff at the Clerk's office; I propose to find ways to improve staff retention so that we do not lose the experience and institutional knowledge required to serve

the community at the highest level.

2. How do your abilities, experience, and education prepare you for this office?

I served as the Los Alamos County Probate Judge for four and a half years. The County Clerk serves as the Clerk of the Probate Court, and as a result the Probate Court is co-located in the Clerk's office. I have worked closely with the clerk and the staff in the Clerk's office. Furthermore, I have worked as a poll worker so I understand the support election workers require to effectively conduct elections.

3. How can we reassure voters that their vote is secure, is private, and will be counted?

The best way to reassure voters that their vote is secure, private, and counted is to have as many of them as possible participate in the process. This means not just voting, but serving as poll workers, election watchers, witnessing the certification of voting machines, or serving on the canvass board. There is no better way to gain confidence in the process than to work alongside the dedicated people who ensure that our elections are free and fair.

4. What can the County Clerk’s office do to enhance voter interest and participation in the voting process?

The best thing that the Clerk’s office can do to enhance voter interest and participation is to make it as easy and convenient as possible to vote.

Los Alamos County Councilor

The Los Alamos County Council is the County’s governing body and was created by the Los Alamos County Charter. The Council consists of seven members elected at large for four-year staggered terms. Three seats will be filled in the 2024 election by the three candidates receiving the most votes. The County Council generally holds two regular sessions per month, plus one work session. Its members also serve as liaisons with the County’s Boards and Commissions and other governmental entities.



**Beverly Neal-Clinton
(Democrat)**

1. To what extent should the County use its limited resources to support the LANL expansion while still maintaining the community’s quality of life?

The County has a symbiotic relationship with LANL. It is imperative that we value our contribution to LANL as well as LANL value our contribution to it. The County is in a position to use its resources to support LANL while holding LANL accountable to its support of the County. It would not behoove either

of us to distance the other. The bigger question is how. What tools are available to us to partner with LANL for our benefit.

2. Have you served on any County Boards and Commissions in the recent past? What have you learned from that experience?

Yes, I have served on the Planning and Zoning Commission in the past and have gained value working relationships that I believe will support my position as a LA County Councilor. The experience I have gained has reinforced the importance of volunteering within the community and understanding the importance of civil responsibility.

3. Should the County consider rezoning open space for residential development or should open space be protected against develop-

ment? Why?

The decision to rezone open space for residential development or protect it against development should involve careful consideration of all relevant factors, including community input, environmental impact assessments, and long-term planning goals. In many cases, a balanced approach that preserves valuable open space while also meeting housing needs through thoughtful urban planning and development may be the most sustainable solution. I need to hear more from the community.

4. What aspects of the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) recommendations and action plan would you support or not support? Why?

Regarding LARES, two specific issues come to mind: (1) Cost-effectiveness: Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of proposed actions is essential to ensure that investments in sustainability yield tangible benefits and are economically viable in the long term; (2) Equity: Ensuring that sustainability initiatives do not disproportionately burden marginalized communities and considering the equitable distribution of benefits and costs are important aspects of any action plan.

5. What do you see as the current critical challenges for the County?

Without question: Affordable housing. Having lived here for over 25+ years, it has always been an issue and it is not getting any better. We can do better.



**Ryn Herrmann
(Democrat)**

1. To what extent should the County use its limited resources to support the LANL expansion while still maintaining the community’s quality of life?

The LANL expansion has created a large need for additional housing. Much like the County supported LANL with expanding childcare options, the two should partner in developing solutions to our housing crisis. Creative housing solutions and support of small businesses will greatly contribute to maintaining our

community’s quality of life.

2. Have you served on any County Boards and Commissions in the recent past? What have you learned from that experience?

I served 6 years on the Los Alamos County Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board, serving as Chair for 4 years. From this experience I learned how the Boards and Commissions give important guidance to the County Council to aid in their decision making process. I have attended many County Council meetings when I was serving on the LTAB Board, as well as in my current role as the Chamber of Commerce Director, gaining considerable insight into the workings of the County Council.

3. Should the County consider rezoning open space for residential development or should open space be protected against development? Why?

Open spaces need to be protected for our community, while current residential projects must be pushed through to completion. The DOE/NNSA should consider possible use of some of their current property for residential development. Some of this land could be appropriate for housing the unprecedented growth in LANL workforce.

4. What aspects of the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) recommendations and action plan would you support or not support? Why?

I believe global warming is an existential threat for the world and specifically our community, and that we need to be proactive in adopting the General Recommendations of the LARES report. In many ways LARES has already been merged into the County's Climate Action Plan. At this time, I would say I support all of the specific recommendations.

5. What do you see as the current critical challenges for the County?

Housing and traffic safety are the two critical challenges I see for the County. I propose that workforce housing should be a primary focus. For traffic, the Los Alamos Police Department, along with regional partners, need to consistently enforce traffic safety laws to deter speeding and reckless driving. Road infrastructure needs continual maintenance and upgrade to handle the increased commuter traffic.



Denise Derkacs
(Democrat)

1. To what extent should the County use its limited resources to support the LANL expansion while still maintaining the community's quality of life?

The County can continue to support LANL's expanded national security science mission while maintaining quality of life, which is one of Council's strategic goals. County infrastructure can support moderate population growth, which in turn, should help stimulate our local economy and help revitalize

our downtown areas. Managing growth responsibly, consistent with the County's downtown Master Plans and using the County's revised Development Code, will be essential to maintaining quality of life.

2. Have you served on any County Boards and Commissions in the recent past? What have you learned from that experience?

I served on the Community Development Advisory Board for two years. I am now serving in my fourth year on Council and my second year as Council Chair. I have gained an understanding of Council procedures and authorities and knowledge of County operations and challenges. I

have learned the complexities of the County budget and the importance of fiscal responsibility. I have worked with fellow Councilors on strategic planning to establish priorities and develop tools to track County performance.

3. Should the County consider rezoning open space for residential development or should open space be protected against development? Why?

County residents strongly value our open spaces, as documented in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Not all vacant properties in the County are designated open spaces. Officially designated open spaces, as well as trails, parks, and recreational spaces, should be protected and maintained. Other vacant properties should be considered, with robust community input, for development compatible with surrounding neighborhoods to address the diverse housing needs of a growing population in the County.

4. What aspects of the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) recommendations and action plan would you support or not support? Why?

I support Council's acceptance of the short-, medium-, and long-term phased implementation of the LARES recommendations related to natural gas; electricity; transportation and mobility; waste, consumption, and natural resources; and community planning. I acknowledge the findings of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. I anticipate Council's adoption of the Climate Action Plan, which is currently under development, and its specific recommendations for community resiliency and well-being.

5. What do you see as the current critical challenges for the County?

Housing development, downtown revitalization, and community services are critical to support growth and preserve quality of life. Development of low- and middle-income housing is essential for a growing population. Downtown revitalization is needed for small business sustainability and expanded shopping and social activities. Enhanced community services, including utilities, broadband, roads, transportation, parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open spaces, contribute to quality of life.



James Curtis Wernicke, Jr
(Libertarian)

1. To what extent should the County use its limited resources to support the LANL expansion while still maintaining the community's quality of life?

Set clear, long-term strategies to balance LANL's expansion with preserving community character and quality of life. Continuously assess LANL's impacts on infrastructure, housing, and sustainability. Collaborate with stakeholders and engage the community to address workforce needs while minimizing adverse ef-

fects. Allocate resources strategically to improve infrastructure, housing, and local businesses, with a focus on sustainable and inclusive growth.

2. Have you served on any County Boards and Commissions in the recent past? What have you learned from that experience?

I'm on Personnel Board, Parks & Rec Board, and Election Canvass Committee. I've learned to balance personal and public duties, active listening, incorporating stakeholder views, maintaining decision transparency, and setting accountable goals. I'm still mastering effective cooperation with County staff. The County needs to clarify decision-making to citizens and align more closely with their will, streamline outdated processes, and focus on equitable oversight rather than control.

3. Should the County consider rezoning open space for residential development or should open space be protected against development? Why?

Open spaces offer vast physical, mental, and emotional health benefits, habitats for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and water filtration. They improve aesthetics, enhance recreation, boost property values, and draw tourism. Strategic infill can alleviate demand without compromising open spaces. The County should consider zoning reforms, streamline permitting, and explore public-private partnerships and innovative policies like the Land Value Tax to increase housing capacity sustainably.

4. What aspects of the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) recommendations and action plan would you support or not support? Why?

Reducing fossil fuel reliance through electrification and sustainable energy adoption, concurrently addressing grid resilience and equitable access. Enhancing public transportation, cycling, walking, and equitably sourced hybrid/electric vehicles. Recycling and composting with more emphasis on reduction and reuse. Environmental education and community engagement. Success hinges on addressing economic impacts, equity, continuous performance assessment, collaboration, and action.

5. What do you see as the current critical challenges for the County?

Enhancing trust through transparent decision-making, robust accountability, and citizen engagement. Addressing housing affordability with zoning reforms and public-private partnerships, and supporting small business growth with simpler regulations and resource access. Additionally, exploring innovative solutions like the Land Value Tax could shift tax burdens and promote development, aiding economic and community growth.



David W Reagor
(Republican)

1. To what extent should the County use its limited resources to support the LANL expansion while still maintaining the community's quality of life?

The county can do infill projects to satisfy the large demand for student and new hire housing for LANL. These would be higher density projects inside the current town sites. In addition, we also need more low-income housing for the county as a whole and have space for this as higher density projects. Such solutions are already underway in the county. The difficult case is providing single family homes for the long term employees of LANL and the laboratory has to provide land for their hires.

2. Have you served on any County Boards and Commissions in the recent past? What have you learned from that experience?

I have served on the Los Alamos county council for one term and am currently running as an incumbent. An issue of great concern is the mental health of our youth. They are being bombarded with nonsensical information that produces fear and depression. The media world that creates the fear campaigns is fundamentally dishonest and our youth need to be convinced of the bright future that is ahead.

3. Should the County consider rezoning open space for residential development or should open space be protected against development? Why?

We need to protect our open space from residential development. This is the backbone of our quality of life. One important issue is to develop better transportation southward towards ABQ. This could include highways or light rail connections. This will act as a buffer for the housing market and improve access to the laboratory and the county. This will, in turn, allow us to preserve the lands we treasure.

4. What aspects of the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) recommendations and action plan would you support or not support? Why?

Conservation efforts are always important to the county. This applies to electricity, water, and natural gas. The remainder of the LARES plan is built on alarmist climate models that have never worked. Man-made carbon dioxide mostly helps plant growth and has little effect on an atmosphere dominated by convection. In our county we should ignore these alarmist measures and do what is best for our middle class rate payers.

5. What do you see as the current critical challenges for the County?

We are really facing a world where the governing elites create a flood of junk information: President Trump is a Russian asset, manmade climate change is a threat to civilization, Covid measures were for public health, Congress can run unlimited federal deficits, children should make permanent changes in their body to match transient psychological states, unlimited immigration helps the country, etc. These nonsensical ideas and their media promoters are the main problem we face.





**Candidate Information at:
www.vote411.org**



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