

# LOS ALAMOS

# VOTER GUIDE 2021

**Featuring:**

Voting Information

Candidates

Los Alamos Public Schools Mill Levy

Prepared by



**The League of  
Women Voters  
of Los Alamos**

The League of Women  
Voters of Los Alamos is  
grateful to the Delle  
Foundation for making this  
publication possible



## Voter Guide to the 2021 Regular Local 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

**Tuesday, October 5:** Voter registration closes. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. at the County Clerk's office in the Los Alamos County Municipal Building; or on-line through the NM Secretary of State Portal ([NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org)) by 11:59 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 6 – Saturday, October 30:** Same day, in-person voter registration begins at the Los Alamos County Clerk's office during regular hours. The voter must register and vote on the same day in this period.

**Tuesday, October 5:** Absentee Voting by mail begins. **Registered voters wishing to vote absentee by mail must request an absentee application this year.** Applications can be obtained now online at [www.NMVOTE.org](http://www.NMVOTE.org) (Voter Information Portal), in-person at the County Clerk's office, or by mail. Fill them out and return them right away. The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 28. Absentee ballots will be mailed out beginning October 5. Absentee ballots must be received at the Clerk's office by 7 p.m. November 2.

**Tuesday, October 5 - Friday, October 15:** Early Voting in person begins:  
Los Alamos County Municipal Building  
Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, October 16 – Saturday, October 30:** Early Voting in person continues:  
Los Alamos County Municipal Building - Council Chambers  
White Rock Town Hall – Training Rooms  
Monday - Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Monday, November 1 - Voting is CLOSED**

**Tuesday, November 2: Election Day.** Vote Centers are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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 – Training Rooms  
Golf Course Community Building – Multi-Purpose Room

University of New Mexico-Los Alamos – Bldg. 6  
Room 631

### Returning an Absentee Ballot

All Absentee ballots are physically due back to the County Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2. Absentee ballots can be dropped off October 6 through October 30 at any scheduled polling place during voting hours, but you must exit your car. In addition, the County Clerk will provide Secure Ballot drop boxes at Mesa Public Library in Los Alamos and at the White Rock Branch Library, located outside, accessible by car, October 6 through November 2.

### Voting Information

You must be registered to vote by October 5 (October 30 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 LA 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, and immediately before voting shall provide:

- 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](http://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](http://www.losalamosnm.us/clerk) or [www.NMVote.org](http://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 Voter Guide 2021 is available at [www.lwvlosalamos.org](http://www.lwvlosalamos.org). You can also visit the website [VOTE411.org](http://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](http://www.losalamosnm.us/clerk).

### Candidates' 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 2021 Regular Local 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 exactly as received by the League other than possibly being truncated at the maximum permitted length. We have in no way edited for meaning, grammar, punctuation, 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 Judy Williams. The editor of the Los Alamos Voter Guide is Lynn Jones, with the help of JoAnn Lysne, Akkana Peck, Barbara Calef, Rosmarie Frederickson, and AAUW member Judy Prono. Thank you also to the United States League of Women Voters for the support of our on-line Voter Guide at [VOTE411.org](http://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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### Los Alamos Public School Board District 1

The Los Alamos Public School Board elections are divided into five voting districts, although only four districts have openings this year. Voters only choose board members from their own district. To determine your LAPS voting district, go to [NMVOTE.org](http://NMVOTE.org) (Voter Information Portal) and click on the “Find My Registration and Election Information” box. Fill in the requested information, and all your voting information, including your School Board District, will be displayed.



**Ellen Beth Specter**

#### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

For the next superintendent, I am looking for an Educator who has experience managing a district that is similar in size, budget and expectations for excellence in how we educate our students. The next superintendent will need to be committed to student and staff wellness and demonstrate their commitment to educating the whole child as well as inclusion and celebration of all of our diverse students, staff and parents.

#### 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

Reducing carbon emissions is vital. If solar panels become economically feasible in the near future, I would like to see new building projects and renovations include them as well as other energy saving measures like purchasing electric vehicles. Energy audits at LAPS are robust, and many changes have already been made. For example, almost all lightbulbs have been replaced with LED bulbs.

#### 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

I believe mask mandates are an essential safety measure during this stage of the pandemic. They add an important layer of protection, especially for young unvaccinated children. Vaccination rates are outstanding among LAPS staff and very good among eligible students. Eventually, Covid-19 vaccination requirements should be required much like measles, mumps, tetanus and other common vaccines. In my opinion, only medical exemptions should be allowed. This is a public health and safety issue.

#### 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

We are in the business of educating children. The first question on every decision should be, “Is this good for the students?” Next, each issue must viewed through the lens mental health. “How will this affect student and staff wellness?” Equity is another important factor. However, the needs of other stakeholders like parents, community partners and others must also be considered. Finally, after needs have been met, we can consider the wants.

### Los Alamos Public School Board District 2

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**Antonio Ray Jaurigue**

#### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

-The top quality that will serve our community and school district is being able to maintain effective communication. Not only between themselves and the district, but between the district and the community. Communication also includes how well they listen to the constituents. - They will need to possess a vision for driving success in the district and a history that exhibits an ability to adapt to the ever-changing dynamic between student and educator

utilizing evidence-based data.

#### 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

- The best method to approach this goal in White Rock is to include such technology and changes during the upcoming rebuild of White Rock schools. Items such as improved insulation methods, solar technology, and recyclable or compostable consumables are a few options. - Improvements can be made on other schools in the district, such as replacing outdated features with newer, high efficiency features. Expanding the solar farm at the middle school and others will serve this function as well.

#### 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

- My position on mask mandates and vaccinations is simple. We as a society need to trust that experts in their respective fields want to help society when it comes to immunization and viral diseases. If the data currently available says we should wear masks to protect the vulnerable, then my stance is the same. If new evidence comes to light, our actions can be altered. - I will rely on the most recent evidence-based data available to ensure our students, faculty, and families are kept safe.

#### 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

-Every case is unique and will take a unique approach to prioritize the needs and wants of the stakeholders. Based on the funding and resources needed, the students and educators will likely always take priority. This can include resources for the classroom, or policies to protect every school member. -The best outcome for all stakeholders in the district—from students to educators to the community more broadly—is for the teachers and children to succeed in not only testing, but learning.



**Paul Anthony Jaramillo**

#### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

A clear vision of what needs to be done for the good of the district is part of being a great superintendent. Leadership is high on my list because it takes a strong compassionate leader to get things done in a professional respectful manner. His or her goals should be to make sure that the students in the district are learning and achieving at a high level in a positive atmosphere where all student are equal. Listening &

Communicating with students, parents and all staff is important.

## 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

I don't think that it needs to be a focus. But I will say this we are to be good stewards of this world God created for us, and thus take wise, responsible, balanced measures to leave our community better than we found it. Carbon dioxide only makes up a small amount of the atmosphere and cannot be blamed fully for climate change. I know this is going to sound extreme to some but I believe mankind will destroy itself before climate change does.

## 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

I do not support either. First of all the mask mandate violates a persons right to freedom of choice. Masking a child can be abusive to a child psychologically and socially and I think it should be a parents choice. So of course I do not support vaccine mandates as it should be ones choice. With the direction this is all going its causing unneeded division within people and sadly families. Its time to stop this before it gets worse. The data of a child dying from Covid does not defend it.

## 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

Communication! There are many people who are stakeholders because they each have an interest in seeing the education program or plan succeed or whatever it may be. Some may have a lot of influence and power over the process, so it's important to use communication to build relationships and reap the benefits of stakeholder communication. Stakeholder communication is an incredibly important aspect of special education. Students are number one on my list.



**Stephen T. Boerigter**

### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

I believe that we need to look for 4 key qualities in our next superintendent. 1) Demonstrated performance leading a large and complex educational organization. 2) Demonstrated passion for academic excellence. 3) Demonstrated commitment to the whole student/student well-being. 4) Demonstrated classroom experience and/or teacher relationships.

### 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

I don't see this as a school board issue. Our primary role is public education - which is the singular most important gift we can provide to a new generation. Of course we should construct new buildings that are energy efficient. We need to be certain our bus fleet is well maintained and should evaluate electric options when bus replacement is required. However, we shouldn't drive procurement or operational policy specifically based upon our estimated impact on greenhouse gases.

### 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

With respect to vaccinations for COVID, the numbers don't lie. Throughout the US, virtually all COVID hospitalizations are in un-vaccinated people. For generations now, we've required vaccinations for other viral diseases like Measles and Mumps. Unless a person has a doctor's guidance otherwise, they should be vaccinated when they can. As for masks, I believe we should equip our teachers and staff to use their judgement in making balanced decisions but not violate PED requirements.

### 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

Education is the singular transformative endeavor for a young person entering the world today. My priorities begin with every young child learning to read and write. As they blossom into young learners, they can be surrounded by other educational and relational opportunities. The breadth of those opportunities expands as they reach middle school and expands again at the high school. Should "needs and

wants" require prioritization, we must always remember our core mission.

## Los Alamos Public School Board District 4

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**Rick Moody**

### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

Our next superintendent should be a dynamic leader who solves problems and enables the school system to succeed. The next Superintendent needs to have the following capabilities: an effective communicator, a champion for students, parents, teachers, and staff, fiscally engaged and proactive, agile in handling and succeeding with multiple priorities in play, and capable of resolving conflict.

### 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

The board should actively pursue sustainable energy policy for schools. Sustainable energy practices make sense fiscally, environmentally and serve the community effectively. Greenhouse emissions should be part of that effective policy. A clear understanding of the expenditures, risks and rewards in policy decisions is needed as we pursue improved standing. As we move policy forward, we should ensure that we do not impose constraints or limitations on the students, teachers, staff and public.

### 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

I will fully comply with state law and directives in regards to safety in our public education system. I do not support vaccination or mask mandates for COVID. Scientific data and studies on COVID show definitively that students are the least vulnerable demographic of the US population and the threat of COVID to students is commensurate with the annual flu threat. The threat to teachers and staff is significant and I fully support incorporation of medically sound mitigation practices in schools.

### 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

The main stakeholder and focus of all priorities in the public school system should be the students, current and future. Clear understanding of this is required to set effective priorities. Priorities should be set to maximize the quality of education provided. Clear indicators of success should be tracked. Parents, teachers and staff make up other stakeholder groups. As a board member, I would seek to understand all stakeholder needs/wants to enable setting and achieving effective priorities.



**Melanie A. Colgan**

### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

I will be looking for a superintendent who knows that the most important job of the school district is to make sure students are learning and achieving at high levels. He or she will be knowledgeable of the best practices for maximizing student achievement and will be supportive of teachers in the district. I will be looking for a superintendent whose focus is the whole child. This will be important in ensuring that our students thrive

academically, emotionally, and socially.



## 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

I will support policies that minimize waste in our school district. Our schools should reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible, and compost food and other green waste. I will encourage our students to get involved. We should tap into their concern for the environment and their natural enthusiasm for change. Sustainability should be part of our curriculum. We can use this to involve students in practical projects around the school. Our new school buildings should be sustainably designed.

## 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

I do support vaccination and mask mandates. I feel protecting the most vulnerable in our community is more important than the inconvenience of wearing a mask or getting a shot. The Delta variant continues to surge in our state. In order to keep our schools open, we need to use strategies that work. Research shows that vaccines and masks work.

## 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

In order to prioritize the needs and wants of the multiple stakeholders of LAPS, I will listen to all sides of a position, but always refer back to my number one priority – the kids. I'll ask myself and my fellow board members, "What is best for the students of the district?" During my time on the board, I have learned that in order to make good decisions, the health, safety, and academic well-being of our students must always be the priority.

## Los Alamos Public School Board District 5

The Los Alamos Public School Board elections are divided into five voting districts, although only four districts have openings this year. Voters only choose board members from their own district. To determine your LAPS voting district, go to [NMVOTE.org](http://NMVOTE.org) (Voter Information Portal) and click on the "Find My Registration and Election Information" box. Fill in the requested information, and all your voting information, including your School Board District, will be displayed.



**Nickole A. Aguilar Garcia**

### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

The next superintendent of LAPS should have extensive demonstrated experience in the following areas: leadership, engagement, fiscal responsibility, recruitment and retention specifically in areas of special education and diverse educational delivery models (i.e., Los Alamos Online Learning Academy), and goals that align with educational improvements with special attention towards improving educational deficits due to the COVID disruption.

## 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

In order to appropriately assess greenhouse gas emissions at LAPS and suggest policies I would first like to review a current report on greenhouse gas emissions on school properties. I have requested a current report from the LAPS administration and I am awaiting the documentation.

## 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

Mask Mandates: NMDOH currently mandates masks indoors for public schools I do not contest that mandate. Vaccination Mandates: I do not support vaccination mandates. Parents should be free to make decisions regarding their children's medical health. Let me be clear: I am not Anti-Vaccination; I am Anti-Mandate for vaccinations. Current medical and religious exemptions that already exist for standard childhood vaccinations should remain in place.

## 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

As an elected member of the school board my priority will always be students first and my primary stakeholders are the constituents who elected me. It is the responsibility of a school board member to represent students and constituents while collaboratively working with the school administration and the teacher's union. When prioritizing the needs and wants of various groups the needs and safety of students will always come before wants of special interest wants.



**Erin E. Green**

### 1. What qualities will you be looking for in the next superintendent?

I will be looking for leadership, awareness of diversity, support for mental health needs of students and teachers, competency in experience, in the classroom and in school administration. It is important that the superintendent be mindful of the needs of the community but also capable of making difficult decisions, and they should ultimately always have the best interest of the students, teachers, and community at the forefront.

## 2. What policies, if any, should the school board pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on school properties?

The school board should follow guidance from the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board and the New Mexico Citizens Climate Lobby. This guidance can be applied at all levels of reconstruction, especially the upcoming elementary school remodels. Policy that integrates a garden program at every school in the district as well as policy that partners with experts on urban forestry and how to improve the Arbor to urban development ratio should be pursued.

## 3. What is your position on vaccination and mask mandates and why?

It is important to follow the leadership of the CDC and the NM PED when it comes to the covid19 pandemic. Children under 12 are a vulnerable population as they are not eligible for the vaccine. The most important job of the school board is to make decisions that will keep kids in school safely. These difficult decisions must focus on safety.

## 4. Public schools navigate the needs of different stakeholders. As a school board member how would you prioritize the needs and wants of various groups?

I will prioritize listening with an open mind and an unbiased mindset. It is important that all stakeholders feel heard. My goal is for all stakeholders to feel connected and wanted in this community as we make decisions in the best interest of the community. I will always prioritize listening when interacting with stakeholders, and I will always prioritize the best interest of the entire community when making decisions for our school system.

## UNM-Los Alamos Advisory Board Position 1

The University of New Mexico–Los Alamos Advisory Board members are elected countywide. All voters in Los Alamos County will vote for all open positions on the UNM-LA Advisory Board. Only three of the five board positions have openings this year.



**Alissa Ann Grissom**

### 1. What are your goals in running for UNM-LA Advisory Board?

I want to see expanded retention programs at UNM-LA for both students and faculty. On the student side, we need to look at issues that affect both new and nearly-graduated learners. On the faculty side, we need resources that make student success easier to track. I acknowledge that we are an advisory board, but these issues need to stay constantly in everyone's mind if they are to be properly addressed.

## 2. How should UNM-LA balance technical certification training versus academic programs?

First of all, these are not mutually exclusive. The talents needed to teach certification courses overlap with academic programs so that a faculty member need not teach only one or the other. That said, I prefer to prioritize keeping everything up to date. Any existing certification programs that need revisions take precedent, followed by expanding academic programs, and lastly adding new technical training.

## 3. How are issues like dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?

Dual credit for high school students helps fill classrooms. It is important UNM-LA focus on providing a great education to everyone, but part of that requires a high enough registration count to maintain an adequate schedule.

## 4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?

No matter what the viral situation is going forward, UNM-LA needs more hybrid course options. This will require funding, training, patience, and research. Some progress has already been made in this regard as two large smart screens on mobile carts are available for classrooms. Teachers need to know how best to use these for classrooms that include remote learners, and more time should be spent determining whether all classrooms should have these tools or if there is a better option.



**Chris Luchini**

### 1. What are your goals in running for UNM-LA Advisory Board?

The pandemic has radically changed how we work and learn. Remote or hybrid learning can be more inclusive to non-traditional students, and reduce financial and time burdens on all students and staff. UNM-LA should not just passively adapt, but take advantage of these changes to increase it's reach in the community, to more effectively serving it's diverse student body. Remote/hybrid learning is the future, and UNM-LA should be on the forefront of these changes.

## 2. How should UNM-LA balance technical certification training versus academic programs?

UNM-LA should use surveys and analytics to determine what it's potential students want from UNM-LA. Analyzing the data from these surveys and other analytics measures is the only way to determine the correct balance between technical certification training versus academic programs.

## 3. How are issues like dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?

The dual credit program for high school students is exceptionally program to develop students skills toward trade certification, or to give students a leg up on the full university education experience. While the number of LAHS and homeschooled students that take advantage of this program is small, the lack of tuition income (from the 2 course fee waiver) to UNM-LA could become a problem in this type of enrollment increases. Since the free tuition plan is not yet in effect, I'll defer comment.

## 4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?

The principal issue is how to handle growth, in an era where an increasing portion of the student body will be able to attend classes remotely, at a institution that is geographically distant. UNM-LA must be able to provide the lab and hands on experience that is not available via remote learning.

## UNM-Los Alamos Advisory Board Position 2

The University of New Mexico–Los Alamos Advisory Board members are elected countywide. All voters in Los Alamos County will vote for all open positions on the UNM-LA Advisory Board. Only three of the five board positions have openings this year.



**Laura Charlotte Woodring**

### 1. What are your goals in running for UNM-LA Advisory Board?

My goals are to advocate for all students, support more practical programs to serve the local economy in Los Alamos and to increase community outreach.

### 2. How should UNM-LA balance technical certification training versus academic programs?

I think UNM-LA should work towards supporting students in both programs by looking at student and teacher retention and exploring the strengths and weaknesses of both programs.

### 3. How are issues like dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?

My parents were both educators and instilled in me the importance of a higher education. I believe all students should have the opportunity towards having a college education. As a community, we should look towards ways of being able to provide all students a low cost or free education.

### 4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?

I see the principal issue facing UNM-LA is finding a way to support students in technical certification programs. I believe that there needs to be more outreach within the community to work with local businesses in getting students jobs in technical fields.



**Lee G. Weinland**

### 1. What are your goals in running for UNM-LA Advisory Board?

I am vitally interested in the future of UNM LA as community resource and a valuable asset in Los Alamos. As a parent of a graduate student at UNM LA, I was quite dismayed when the four-year program she had planned on here was summarily disposed of and forced us to transfer her to the main campus for the balance of her undergraduate classes. I am highly interested in exploring

the possibilities of re-initializing at least a few more of these 4-year programs to keep more of our kids at home.

### 2. How should UNM-LA balance technical certification training versus academic programs?

I believe the Advisory Board can really help with this task by doing some analysis and research as to the efficacy and value of these programs. This is the kind of work I love and would really love to dive into the process. There are many other successful schools we can bench mark the data from and then compare it to our own local demographics to come up with workable solutions and models to create this balance. It's really all about what the needs are and what resources can we muster.

### 3. How are issues like dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?

Dual credit for HS students is a proven and effective way to steer local kids toward a comfortable transition to college and give them a leg up on other kids when they graduate especially in our academically minded community. And conversely, I've seen it give a dose of reality to kids who thought they should go to college but then



realized they might be better suited in a trade school environment instead. Free tuition is an outstanding idea. I will work to make them both happen. (more on this)

#### 4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?

Covid. The pandemic(s) are here to stay and we must adapt all of our teaching, administration, and growth plans to fit the ever-changing balance surrounding college education today and on into the future. I had previously dreamed of seeing UNM LA grow with new buildings and glorious academic programs. But currently, I am sure we need to move forward carefully and with prudence to ensure that we can at least maintain our current excellent level of local collegiate experience.



**Charles F. McCullough**

#### 1. What are your goals in running for UNM-LA Advisory Board?

UNM-LA is an underrated treasure in Los Alamos that has for years offered an excellent choice for students seeking an affordable beginning to advanced education, technical certification, or return to the workforce. I bring experience with higher education, serving on boards of various organizations, and a heart for helping people to the task of building up an already successful university,

serving as a positive bridge between community and institution, and supporting recruitment and retention.

#### 2. How should UNM-LA balance technical certification training versus academic programs?

Both are essential for UNM-LA. Certification programs that appeal to practical, “hands-on” education build discipline and confidence in students and give them an immediate competitive edge in the workforce. High-quality general education courses are a classic function of the university, developing critical thinking as well as qualitative skills and broader social awareness. Maintaining a healthy balance of both is a high return investment for the university and the community.

#### 3. How are issues like dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?

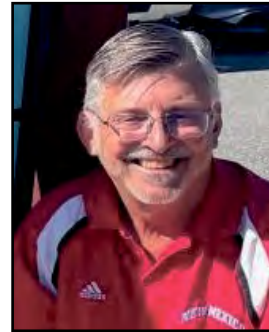
Dual-credit courses are something of a double-edged sword. Providing an excellent (and free) opportunity for high school students, such courses expose them to the college experience and result in transferable credits on a UNM transcript. However, dual-credit courses create a fiscal burden for UNM-LA. Lengthy delays in reimbursement and the complexities of the funding formula create a budget stressor not readily resolved. Finding a way to make this work for student and school is a worthy goal.

#### 4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?

Budget concerns, dual-credit courses--real issues to be addressed in thoughtful, proactive ways. Another issue is one of perception; i.e., the way UNM-LA is perceived in the community. Retention and recruitment will be enhanced by enabling the community to see this institution as THE affordable, close to home, high-quality instruction, stepping stone to the next level of education or employment, a great fit for many of our students. I will be engaged and invested, promoting this view of UNM-LA.

### UNM-Los Alamos Advisory Board Position 5

The University of New Mexico–Los Alamos Advisory Board members are elected countywide. All voters in Los Alamos County will vote for all open positions on the UNM-LA Advisory Board. Only three of the five board positions have openings this year.



**David E. Hampton**

#### 1. What are your goals in running for UNM-LA Advisory Board?

Build and expand vocational and academic programs supporting local needs. Increase local availability of 4-year degrees, building on the currently available Mechanical Engineering degree, including nursing and education. Build and expand relationships with other local entities. I have consistently demonstrated my interest in UNM-LA by attendance at the Advisory Board meetings since May 2019. I will continue to attend the meetings whether or not

I am elected, but I can accomplish more if elected.

#### 2. How should UNM-LA balance technical certification training versus academic programs?

I would balance technical certification and academic programs against community needs.

#### 3. How are issues like dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?

While high school students are attending existing classes, UNM-LA does lose money if there are not enough paying students for classes. Tuition is not free in regards to dual credit, since 30% of UNM-LA’s budget comes from our property taxes. It is important to have a dialogue on how we might move some LAHS money to UNM-LA for students who are earning dual credit at UNM-LA instead of taking classes at LAHS. Free tuition is dependent on funding from state or federal sources.

#### 4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?

Enrollment and funding. I would approach it by adding more programs based on community needs, including Certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees to prepare students to directly enter the workforce, as well as more opportunities to earn 4 year degrees locally. I would also seek funding from other local entities to subsidize programs from which they benefit.



**David E. Hanson**

#### 1. What are your goals in running for UNM-LA Advisory Board?

The primary responsibility of the position is to serve as a community representative to the UNM-LA director by reviewing its day-to-day operation policies and proposals, as well as asking questions of my own. Broadly, UNM-LA has two customer bases: students and Los Alamos businesses, both large and small. As an Advisory Board member, I will try to ensure that the needs of both are being served and that UNM-LA continues to be run with

efficiency and professionalism into the future.

#### 2. How should UNM-LA balance technical certification training versus academic programs?

My position is that technical certification training and academic programs are both important. However, technical and vocational training poses a more dynamic challenge. The employment opportunities in the community for technical and vocational jobs change on a faster time scale than the core classes for UNM 4 year degrees. Because of this their curriculum should be reviewed more often.

#### 3. How are issues like dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?

Currently, the dual credit policy is an unfunded mandate. It is difficult to solve because it is constrained by state law: school budgets can’t be spent on community

colleges and UNM-LA's budget from the state doesn't allow being reimbursed for teaching high school students. In some cases it can be finessed, e.g. if there are empty seats in a course that is already funded by UNM-LA students. But the overall funding shortfall needs to be addressed by our state legislature, not a new mil levy.

**4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?**

UNM-LA faces a number of very important issues but it's not clear at this point which will be the most important. Certainly, one of the most immediate concerns is how to restructure the UNM-LA campus operations and curriculum in the post-pandemic environment. Another challenge is how UNM-LA should respond to the governor's initiatives for free tuition. This is likely to result in a substantial increase in enrollment and the need to provide, relatively quickly, enough classrooms and faculty.



**Los Alamos Public School District Mill Levy Question  
For November 2, 2021, Regular Local Election**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT MILL LEVY QUESTION**

Shall the Los Alamos Public School District continue to impose a property tax of \$3.246 for residential and non-residential property per each \$1,000.00 of net taxable value of property allocated to the Los Alamos Public School District for the property tax years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 for the purpose of (1) erecting, remodeling, making additions to, providing equipment for or furnishing public school buildings, including teacher housing and pre-kindergarten classroom facilities; (2) payments made pursuant to a financing agreement for the leasing of a building or other real property with an option to purchase for a price that is reduced according to payments made; (3) purchasing or improving public school grounds; (4) purchasing activity vehicles for transporting students to and from extracurricular school activities; (5) administering the projects undertaken pursuant to sections 1 and 3 above, including expenditures for facility maintenance software, project management software, project oversight and district personnel specifically related to administration of projects funded by the Public School Buildings Act provided that expenditures pursuant to this section shall not exceed five percent of the total project cost; and (6) purchasing and installing education technology improvements, excluding salary expenses of school district employees but including tools used in the educational process that constitute learning and administrative resources?

FOR Public School Buildings Act Tax

AGAINST Public School Buildings Act Tax

