

Questions for Los Alamos County Council Candidates
League of Women Voters of Los Alamos 2004 Voters Guide

1. What is your vision of Los Alamos 10 years from now?

My vision is of a safe, family oriented community with a small-town quality of life; a vibrant business community that meets the needs of its citizens; a welcoming environment that supports innovative entrepreneurs; infrastructure that helps to raise healthy kids; and, a community that will help recruit the best and brightest work force.

2. What can the Council do to increase the diversity of the economic base of Los Alamos County?

Local entrepreneurs need a supportive local business environment without overburdening regulations, a good pool of workers, and, of course, merchants need a strong customer base with adequate foot traffic. The Council must support an economic development plan that meets those needs both on the Hill and in White Rock. In addition, a successful plan must also address our transportation infrastructure. Businesses cannot thrive if it is difficult for customers to get to them.

3. What should be the roles of the Council, the P&Z Commission, the staff, and the public, respectively, in the completion of the Los Alamos Comprehensive Plan?

Aside from its approval function, the Council sets the parameters for development of the plan. P&Z provides oversight of the plan's development and serves as the first line of public input. The staff provides planning expertise, does research, data collection and analysis, office support, and implementation (after the plan is approved). The public owns the plan which must conform to general public wishes. Citizens must stay informed and insert their thoughts into the process.

4. What should be the role of the Council in creating affordable housing in Los Alamos?

Los Alamos has offered land for affordable housing. The challenge is keeping it affordable. Typically, such housing is affordable only to the first purchaser then values rise exorbitantly. We must think creatively to create affordable housing and keep it affordable. Former councilor Patt Rogers had some ideas in this area that we should pursue. For example, include a deed codicil that requires sale at the same terms as the original purchase.

Candidate: _____ **Date:** _____

Kenneth H. Milder