

Minutes of the League of Women Voters/Los Alamos
Thursday, April 16, 2026
Fellowship Hall of the Unitarian Church
1738 North Sage Loop
Los Alamos, New Mexico

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:23 P.M. with 38 members in attendance. The required quorum of 15% of the total membership was confirmed, allowing the meeting to proceed. The meeting was chaired by Felicia Orth, President of the Los Alamos League.

Minutes of the 2025 Meeting (published in the May 2025 Update)

The minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting were recorded by Cecile Hemez, Secretary. The readers for the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes were Maire O'Neill and June Fabryka-Martin. The 2025 minutes were accepted as published.

Maire O'Neill and June Fabryka-Martin volunteered to be the readers for the 2026 Annual Meeting minutes.

President's Report

Felicia Orth thanked the League's members for their commitment to protecting and defending our democracy. She also highlighted the League's work to expand voter participation, including hosting candidate forums, producing the Voter Guide, and registering new voters.

Membership Report

The Los Alamos League had 120 members as of April 15, 2026.

Karyl Ann Armbruster asked the audience whether anyone was not receiving information about Lunch with a Leader. No one responded affirmatively.

Treasurer's Report

Adelaide Jacobson reported that the Los Alamos League is in good financial standing. She thanked Lisa Hampton for heading the Budget Committee.

Voter Services

Lynn Jones announced that the Voter Guide for the 2026 primary election will be distributed by *The Daily Post* on April 30 and will also be available on the League's website. The guide will include information about the semi-open primary system. The League will also issue a Voter Guide in October 2026, ahead of the November 3 general election.

Adoption of Local Program (positions, study, plans for action)

Recommendations from the Program Planning meeting, held February 1, and subsequent Board actions:

- Replace the Indigent Health Care Fund position with a new health care position. The Board presented the new position it adopted through concurrence with the Santa Fe County League's Community Health position. Becky Shankland moved

to adopt the position. Karyl Ann Armbruster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Re-adopt the Sustainability, Public Transportation, Environment, Sustainable Water, Fuller Lodge, Land Use and Transportation: Residential Neighborhoods, Education and Digital Privacy positions. Jody Benson moved to re-adopt the positions. Jeannette Mortensen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- National positions remained unchanged. The Los Alamos League sent messages to LWVUS in support of considering concurrence with the separation of church and state and religious freedom position of LWV Colorado and of the protection of immigrant rights position of LWV Washington. League members at the Program Planning meeting stressed the urgency of protecting voting rights.
- The group voted unanimously to adopt a Board-approved League study on converting waste to energy. Barbara Calef will lead the study. A Friendly Reminder will present the scope of the study and invite members to participate. Several members have already expressed interest.

The Health Care Forum, held on February 24 and sponsored by the League, Los Alamos Community Foundation, and Anchorum, was well attended.

The zoning changes proposed by the League have still not been considered by the County Council.

The League developed a flyer to inform the public about semi-open primary elections. Jody Benson called for volunteers to post the flyer in public spaces, including churches. Karyl Ann Armbruster suggested also contacting the high school.

Wendy Swanson moved to adopt the program. Addie Jacobson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Primary elections information:

- Voter Guides will be distributed April 30
- The Candidate Forum will be held April 30, 6:30 P.M., at the Student Center of UNM-LA. Seven candidates for County Council and two for sheriff will participate.
- Early voting starts May 5
- General election is June 2

Adoption of the FY 2026-27 Budget

Lisa Hampton, head of the Budget Committee, presented the proposed budgets for FY 27 (05/01/2026 to 04/30/2027) and FY 28 (05/01/2027 to 04/30/2028).

June Fabryka-Martin asked why the proposed budget for FY 28 was lower than for previous years, given the upcoming 2028 General Election. Lisa Hampton answered that the overall expenses for FY 28 will be lower because there will not be a national convention in FY 28. The Voter Guide for the 2028 general election will be included in the FY 29 budget.

Maire O'Neill moved to accept the FY 2026-27 Budget as presented. Barbara Calef seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Directors

The Slate of Officers and Directors for 2026-2027 was presented by Ellen Mills, representing the Nominating Committee, composed of Ellen Mills and Ed Santiago:

- Officers:
 - President: Leslie Wallstrom
 - 1st Vice-President/President Elect: *open*
 - 2nd Vice-President: June Fabryka-Martin
 - Secretary: Marianne Wilkerson
 - Co-Treasurers: Susannah Rousculp and Julie Williams-Hill
 - Past President: Felicia Orth
- Directors:
 - Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster, assisted by Elaine Deschamp
 - Membership: Barbara Calef
 - Publicity: Jody Benson
 - Voter Service/Voter Guide: Cynthia Biddlecomb
 - Community Health and Wellbeing: Lisa Hampton
 - Reservations and Refreshments: Wendy Swanson, assisted by Ellen Mills
 - Communications: Becky Shankland, Karyl Ann Armbruster
 - Newsletter Publisher/Archivist: Bob Williams
 - Nominating Committee: Ellen Mills, Ed Santiago
- Off-Board Directors (vote by membership not required):
 - Website/Social Media: Helena Whyte, Madhavi Garimella
 - Observer Corps: June Fabryka-Martin, Craig Martin, Maire O'Neill
 - Fundraising: Ellen Mills
 - Video: Ed Santiago
 - Newsletter Editors: Barbara Calef, Rebecca Shankland
 - Newsletter Distribution: Jeannette Mortensen
 - Budget Committee: Lisa Hampton (Chair), Julie Williams-Hill, Jeffrey Howell
 - Voter Guide Committee: Lynn Jones, Marianne Wilkerson, Susannah Rousculp

There were no nominations from the floor. Jody Benson moved to accept the proposed Slate of Officers and Directors. Adelaide Jacobson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Leslie Wallstrom thanked outgoing President Felicia Orth for her three-year term and presented her a gift on behalf of the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

Minutes drafted by Cecile Hemez
Reviewed by readers June Fabryka-Martin and Maire O'Neill
Edited with comments from Barbara Calef and Jody Benson
Approved by the Board on 04/23/2026