

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF LOS ALAMOS UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
P.O. Box 158, Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.LWVLosAlamos.org
Volume 75, Number 12, April, 2023

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CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING – April 20, 2023

Calendar

- April 20 **Annual Meeting:** Lunch with a Leader, Chief Justice Shannon Bacon; LWVLA annual meeting, Fellowship Hall, Unitarian Church, 1738 North Sage Loop, noon-2:30 p.m.
- April 27 Board Meeting, Zoom, noon
- April 29-30 **LWVNM Convention**, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Los Alamos (see Spring *La Palabra* for details)
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April Lunch with a Leader: Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon

Lunch with a Leader will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, in the Fellowship Hall at the Unitarian Church. Our speaker will be the Chief Justice of the NM Supreme Court, Shannon Bacon, who will attend on Zoom. We will offer lunches from the Co-op for \$10 as we did before 2020. You will receive an email with the lunch options soon.

Chief Justice Bacon was appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court on January 25, 2019, after being recommended by the nonpartisan Judicial Nominating Commission. After growing up in Albuquerque, Bacon earned her bachelor's degree in history at Creighton University in Omaha and her Juris Doctorate at Creighton School of Law. She then returned to Albuquerque, where she worked as a professor at the UNM Law School and as a civil attorney.

Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Bacon served as a district court judge on the Second Judicial District Court, presiding over cases spanning complex



civil litigation, class actions, adult guardianship and conservatorship cases, real estate and contract disputes, election issues, domestic and children's court cases and appeals. Justice Bacon was also the Bernalillo County Water and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Judge and served on numerous commissions and committees as well as on non-profit boards that address the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

Co-President's Message: What You Might Have Missed in the Suffrage Struggle

The rabbit hole of research: When our local League decided to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote and the League's role in creating Los Alamos County, we decided to mount a library exhibit. Little did we know how much research we'd pursue and the intriguing facts we'd learn along the way.

The Haudenosaunee/Iroquois: Historically, we were fascinated to discover some early predecessors in women's equality — women in these Native American groups held leading political roles.

Abigail Adams: In her 1776 letter to her husband, John Adams (later the second US president), as he was helping to draft the Declaration of Independence, she asked that they "remember the Ladies"; otherwise we "will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice or Representation." Alas, her request was dead on arrival!

New Spain: Under Spanish and, later, Mexican law, women in New Mexico had many rights they lost when the United States took control. Specifically, women could own land, annul a bad marriage, and keep their children if they divorced.

Declaration of Sentiments: Most of us know some of the story of American suffragists, but do we know about the brilliant drafting of this document in 1848? It was of course based on the Declaration of Independence (revised to read "all men *and women* are created equal"), but the list of grievances is fascinating. For example: "He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice." "He has monopolized nearly all the profitable employments, and from those she is permitted to follow, she receives but a scanty remuneration." Isn't this still a grievance?

Peaceful Struggle for the Vote: All along the way, women pursued their goal in peaceful ways: marches, hunger strikes, the "Silent Sentinels." Some of that strategy probably resulted from the number of leading suffragists raised as Quakers, who had long emphasized non-violence and women's equality (women and men were equally recognized as speakers/ministers in Quaker meetings). Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, and Alice Paul were all Quakers.

The Mother and Son Who Clinched the Passage of the 19th Amendment: Tennessee was the 36th and last of the states needed to ratify. Harry Burn, a 24-year-old representative in the legislature, was opposed. But his mother wrote him a letter imploring him to vote for it. Her joke is famous: referring to suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt, she said Burn should help Catt put the "rat" in "ratification." He switched his vote and his single vote made women's vote the law of the land.

League of Women Voters' Belief in Non-Partisan Voter Education: In the same year that the 19th Amendment passed giving women the franchise, Carrie Chapman Catt changed her suffragist group into the League of Women Voters. Her motive was to educate women in the responsible

exercise of their vote. Hence our continued pursuit of non-partisan candidate forums and voter guides. But another responsibility was education on issues: we debate issues like the environment and voting methods, then form positions and lobby. Some members find it frustrating that they can't just speak up on issues that they feel passionate about, if they haven't been officially studied by the League — but that's been the rule since 1920. Of course, League members may speak their minds about issues as individuals, but only designated representatives speak for the League.

Los Alamos Becomes a County: How did Los Alamos transition from a secret US government-owned military post to a self-governing County? The Los Alamos League was formed in 1947 by women who wanted to make that transition happen and be able to vote. They proposed a governing charter; that proposed charter is still the form of our local government many decades later.

As the League reaches its 103rd year as an American political force, we continue to contribute to intelligent political discussions at all levels of our society.

Becky Shankland

Welcome, New Members!

Jennifer Holmes writes:

I've lived in Los Alamos almost 14 years and taught language arts at the middle school, finishing out my 42-year career in education here in 2014. Before that I taught elementary, middle, and high school on the Navajo Nation, Zuni Pueblo, and inner-city San Diego. I've experienced first-hand the democratic foundations of public education. I value the lessons I learned from all the different cultures of students and parents I have taught over the years.

I've been a volunteer literacy tutor and tutor-trainer for the Rio Arriba Adult Literacy Program and am active at White Rock Presbyterian Church. My husband Ken, who was the librarian at LAHS, recently passed away and I am learning to live on my own now. I enjoy visiting my three children and grandchildren in Tucson, AZ, San Jose, CA, and Whidbey Island, WA. I like to read and take walks in our beautiful community. I've always admired the work and vision of LWV and gladly accepted the invitation from my friends already active in our local chapter.

Elaine Deschamp writes:

I recently retired from the Research Library at LANL. I now have time to participate in activities that are important to me. I have attended many of the League's forums and Lunch with a Leader. The work the League does is important to the community and I'd like to be able to contribute.

I am active in both local and national politics, and I work the polls during the elections. I also volunteer at the food depot and kids' kitchen in Santa Fe. I look forward to working with the League.

Observer Corps Reports – County Council – Regular Session – March 7

The hybrid session was attended by Council Chair Denise Derkacs and Councilors Theresa Cull, Melanee Hand, Suzie

Havemann, Keith Lepsch, David Reagor, and Randall Ryti. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda.

Social Services Update

Council received an overview of the County's Social Services activities from

Jessica Strong, Social Services Division Manager. The division consists of a staff of four who run the Health Care Assistance Program, grants, contracts, and seven facilities. It coordinates its work with the County Health Council and DWI Planning Council. Over 34 contracts with a combined FY23 budget of \$2.0M fund a large number of community service providers, including Los Alamos Retired and Senior Organization, Teen Center (run by Los Alamos YMCA), Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, Family Strengths Network, Las Cumbres, Los Alamos Health Commons, LA Cares, youth activity centers run by the Los Alamos Family Council, and several DWI programs.

Dr. Emily Piltch updated the Council on the Comprehensive Health Plan development and health equity planning work that she is coordinating with the County Health Council. "Planning efforts are in the data collection phase to investigate existing health, wellness, and social service strengths and unmet needs in the community."

Public Hearing on grant application for Street Light Replacement Project

Council unanimously approved a resolution of support that authorizes the County to apply for FY2024 Carbon Reduction Program Funds for the Street Light Replacement Project.

The staff report for this item notes that the Traffic and Streets Division has been replacing high pressure sodium street light fixtures with dark-sky compliant LED fixtures for the past several years. The recently passed County Lighting Ordinance requires all street lights to be upgraded by 2032. This grant application would provide funding for the purchase of LED fixtures to replace the remaining 511 noncompliant street light fixtures. County crews would install the new fixtures in two to three years, completing the project by the end of 2027.

Public Hearing on grant application to Update the 1998 Pedestrian Transportation Plan

Council unanimously approved a resolution of support that authorizes the County to apply

for FY2024 Transportation Alternatives Program Funds for the update to the 1998 Pedestrian Transportation Plan. If the application is successful, the County anticipates having a consultant on board by early 2024 and a completed plan by Fall of 2024.

Potential Limited Uses of Glyphosate in the County

Council chose to uphold the 2021 ban on the use of glyphosate containing herbicides on County-owned property, voting 6–1, with Councilor Lepsch in opposition.

Arguments for allowing limited uses of glyphosate use

Councilor Lepsch wanted to discuss potential exemptions to the ban of glyphosate-containing herbicide for weed control on County land. Council had directed staff to incorporate this ban into the County's Pest Management Plan in December 2021 as recommended by the Environmental Sustainability Board due to concerns about its environmental and health impacts [see January 2022 LWVLA *Update*]. Opening the discussion, Councilor Lepsch said, "First I'd like to state, just for the record, this is on the agenda only because of me. No County staff influenced, insinuated, or suggested in any way that we should readdress this topic. I do understand that there is a very passionate group of people out there that are against glyphosate for any reason."

The County staff report accompanying this agenda item summarized how the ban has impacted staff's ability to keep up with the expected maintenance throughout the community, particularly overgrown vegetation in the roadway right-of-way and at the airport. The safety at the airport is a top concern because not only do weeds pose a safety hazard on the runway itself, but the edges of the runway are also difficult to mow due to runway lighting.

Councilor Lepsch agreed with the County staff's position on its operational needs. "I think it's important to note that the same crew for the County that is short-staffed that has to take

care of the weeds, also takes care of the asphalt and the concrete. So, there is a tradeoff; the more time they spend on weeds, the less time they spend on potholes and repairs, etc. ... It is not my goal that I want to have more pesticides and chemicals spread into our environment but this is not a zero-sum game. There are tradeoffs either way we go."

"I really did try to do independent research and look for myself," Lepsch continued. "I understand that this has become a deeply passionate issue to me, and I understand that it is unlikely that Council will reverse itself. I guess the point I would like to make with this is, I hope that we can in the future step back slightly and become a little more driven by data and really take advantage of some of the expertise we have in the County."

Council discussion about glyphosate use

Councilor Ryti expressed surprise about the glyphosate agenda item. He noted that the Council voted unanimously to make integrated pest management a Council policy in December 2021. At that same time, Mr. Styron was developing a County policy document for Integrated Pest Management, which spells out seven progressive steps for weed management; the seventh step is application of synthetics, such as glyphosate. "So, when I saw the item on the agenda, I was a little confused about where it came from," Councilor Ryti said. "I think it is important to realize that integrated pest management is a Council policy and so I wouldn't expect to have an ad-hoc decision about [making exceptions for the use of] glyphosate without the context, that there's integrated pest management occurring, that we're trying everything else." Councilor Ryti ended his comment with the query, "What happened to steps 1 through 6 of integrated pest management?"

CSD Director Styron noted that the new policy was only adopted a little over a year ago, and that the County fell behind in its weed management efforts because of wildfire considerations, an early monsoon, and a continued staffing issue. "I think that we're really early in the game. We're still evolving, there's still opportunities to evaluate. ...

However, we would also see this as an operational item, that is in our wheelhouse to operate. We'd be happy to listen to any recommendations and get feedback from the ESB but ultimately it needs to be the operation unit's decision. ... Our biggest concern...is how do we keep up with everything...with about 50% less employees as we sit today?"

Passionate public comments asked the Council not to grant exceptions for the use of glyphosate usage on County land. Local resident Dina Pesenson, who was instrumental in getting the Council to end its use of glyphosate, said "With all due respect, Councilor Lepsch, you've described over six years of community effort as 'emotional based,' and I think that's not called for, especially after a few weeks of your own research [that] you consider equivalent. If you did familiarize yourself with the presentations considered in the discussion where the Council did make this decision, I think you'd be more concerned for your son's safety actually. All the presentations had multiple pages of resources and links that you could look through if you are interested."

Council decision

In the end, Council voted to not make any exemptions to the glyphosate use ban on County property; only Councilor Lepsch voted in opposition. In support of the motion, Councilor Reagor said, "Glyphosate might be useful somewhere but we haven't gone long enough on this ban to make sure that there's any kind of failure. ... We should continue and look at it next year."

Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project (formerly known as the Camp May Waterline)

Council gave unanimous approval for the County Manager to proceed with negotiations for an agreement with the Pajarito Ski Hill owners to implement the Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project (JMFPP) and to pursue and apply for grant funding for this project.

JMFPP background

The County sought Council approval to proceed with guidance outlining how

agreements with the Ski Hill owners (Pajarito Recreation LP) would be developed to implement the JMFPP, including an outline of roles and responsibilities. The project was originally known as the Camp May Waterline when its focus was on providing water for snowmaking. However, in negotiations with the State, the primary component was shifted to fire protection, with the purpose of the water line being to fill the existing reservoir at the Ski Hill with a reliable source of water. County staff saw the project as a win-win situation, keeping the ski hill viable in winter, and providing fire protection in summer.

The Project currently consists of three primary components:

- Installation of a 500,000-gallon water storage tank that will be used to provide potable water service to the Pajarito Ski Area and additional fire protection.
- Construction of a 4.5-mile pipeline to deliver water to the storage tank and to the Pajarito Ski Area's 10-million-gallon reservoir. Water from the reservoir will be used for regional firefighting and snowmaking.
- Decommissioning of the existing overhead high voltage electric line running along Camp May Road and the installation of a replacement underground electric line.

The current estimated cost of the project is \$14M. The Ski Hill owners and the County are collectively seeking a \$10M grant and have individually pledged \$2M. The Ski Hill has already invested \$0.5M in design and seeking environmental clearance permits from the U.S. Forest Service and DOE. Shelton pointed out, "That 'Finding of No Significance' basically means that we have a project that is shovel-ready."

Council questions about use of potable water

Councilor Reagor asked, "What is the logic behind using high-quality potable water for snow-making and firefighting?" Public Works Director Philo Shelton explained that the potable water question is a two-part decision. First, the current lodge, if you get more customers, there's going to be a need for drinking water, water for the cafeteria,

bathrooms and so forth. It's relying on a perched groundwater table that has a very limited supply. ... The other piece was Camp May having potable water up there for the camping, which is another option. It has none today."

Councilor Ryti asked, "What proportion of the community's total water rights would this new use constitute?" Shelton answered, "Our water right is just under 10,000 acre-feet, and this use would be a maximum of 196 acre-feet." Thus, the new use would be about 2% of the County's water right, and possibly less if the State Engineer granted any recharge credit for the water used, on the basis that this water is being recycled at the top of the watershed.

Councilor Ryti asked about one of the attachments to the negotiation terms, which stated that the owner could subdivide or develop 'the developable part' of the property for commercial or residential use. He was concerned that the availability of potable water would make such development even more attractive and wanted to know what legal recourse the County might have in such a case. Philip Rae, who was the Ski Hill Club president when the Club sold the property to its present owner, provided some background history. "There were always questions about future development and things that might conceivably occur up there, and frankly no private company was going to take on [the purchase of the property] if it were totally locked down." However, both Rae and Lynne emphasized that the vast majority of the Ski Hill property is zoned as Open Space, which would require rezoning before any commercial development could occur. Any rezoning would be under the County's purview.

Council decision

Councilor Havemann best summarized the Council's overall reaction to the Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project. "I am such a big proponent of this because I think it hits just so many of our strategic plans and priorities. The fire mitigation aspect of it alone is enough that would cause me to want to support this. ... I think from a recreation and quality of life aspect, this is something that we need to

continue to invest in. And for economic development and tourism benefits, it's equally important."

As a caveat, Councilor Ryti noted that there was no way that one could argue that the project was good for the Council's environmental stewardship goal because it was not water conservation. However, he pointed out that this drawback doesn't mean that the project doesn't score well on a lot of the other goals.

Local news coverage about this meeting

Kirsten Laskey, *Los Alamos Daily Post*,
March 2, 2023,
<https://ladailypost.com/council-action-taken-march-7-2023/>

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martn

Observer Corps Reports – County Council – Work Session – March 14

The hybrid session was attended by Council Chair Denise Derkacs and Councilors Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Keith Lepsch, David Reagor, and Randall Ryti attending in person and Councilor Theresa Cull via Zoom. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda.

Presentation from NNSA Los Alamos Field Office Manager

DOE/NNSA Los Alamos Field Office Manager Ted Wyka and staff updated Council on a wide range of topics of joint interest. Stephanie Stringer, NNSA Assistant Manager for Mission, Assurance and Infrastructure addressed the County's request for investigating additional land parcels to be transferred from the DOE to the County. She said that 65% of original DOE land in Los Alamos County had been transferred to local or other national agencies, and that DOE is continuing to prepare land for transfer that was identified in a 1997 law. Stringer said there is no other land outside those currently identified as transfer parcels that can be transferred. Wyka added that, because of LANL's growing mission, especially in high explosives, some areas in which the County expressed interest are too close to operations to be transferable.

Councilor Ryti asked about feral cattle, particularly in light of recent accidents involving motor vehicles and cows. Wyka explained that DOE and the County are working together with a wrangler to remove feral cattle. They are also looking at ways to limit access by cattle and are working with the Forest Service, Bandelier, and San Ildefonso Pueblo.

Councilor Ryti also asked about fire mitigation efforts in Los Alamos Canyon. Kristen Dors, NNSA NEPA Compliance Officer, said that, because of the endangered Jemez Mountain salamander habitat on the north-facing canyon wall, tree removal has to be done by hand crews with chainsaws, so

progress is slow. Ryti also asked about potential recreational use in Los Alamos Canyon below the ice rink. Dors said the potential exists, but COVID slowed the initial discussion and on-going remediation work in that canyon has not been completed.

Chair Derkacs asked Wyka for information on plans to increase the supply capacity of the electrical grid. Wyka said that work continues on the planning process and will be included in the upcoming environmental assessment. Dors added that a 50-acre solar panel array with battery storage is in the planning stages, to be located in TA-16 along the road to Bandelier.

Local news coverage about this meeting

Maire O'Neill, *Los Alamos Reporter*, March 16, 2023,

<https://losalamosreporter.com/2023/03/16/doe-nnsas-wyka-updates-los-alamos-county-council-at-tuesdays-work-session/>

Maire O'Neill, *Los Alamos Reporter*, March 30, 2023,

<https://losalamosreporter.com/2023/03/30/council-hears-from-nnsa-on-land-transfers-feral-cattle-and-more/>

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

County Facility Condition Assessment

Public Works Director Juan Rael and Doug Fredendall from the ISES Corporation presented Council with an overview of the Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) recently completed by the ISES team. "As you recently heard from County Manager Lynne during last week's CIP discussion, and as we have heard from the community during our CIP town halls, maintaining the County's existing assets is our top priority for the community," said Rael. "The total number of our buildings has been increasing significantly and our overall square footage has in fact doubled since 2010." Presently, the County has 47 facilities totaling over 620,000 sq. ft.

The scope of the FCA covered 38 County buildings. The detailed quantitative information provided was used by Public Works to develop its 10-yr facility maintenance budget that will be presented during the budget hearings in April. Building upon the FCA findings, Public Works staff is procuring state-of-the-art asset management system software to provide them with a tool that can be used to assign and track the status of work orders and preventative maintenance tasks.

The FCA results show that the majority of the County's facilities are in good to excellent condition because so much is relatively new construction. Nevertheless, the FCA estimates a total renewal need of \$37M for items that have or will reach the end of their useful life over the next 10 years. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems are the single largest contributor to renewal needs, accounting for 24% of the \$37M total.

Fredendall recommended that the County plan to invest about \$3.2M annually over the next 10 years to upgrade facilities and systems, catch up on deferred maintenance and repairs, and keep up with planned cyclical renewal efforts. This annual reinvestment equates to about 1.1% of the current replacement value of the facilities.

Councilors Havemann and Lepsch encouraged the County to look into environmentally friendly options when replacing or upgrading systems, such as replacing HVACs with heat pumps.

Atomic City Transit Short-Range Transit Plan

The draft Atomic City Transit (ACT) Short-Range Transit Plan was prepared by LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. for the Public Works Department. LSC Consultant Genevieve Evans described the approach used to develop and analyze potential improvements that ACT could implement over the next five years. Evans observed that most people who ride the public bus in other communities do so because they do not have another means of vehicular transportation; however, such is not the case in Los Alamos. In an onboard survey of 97 passengers, 56%

said their top motivation for riding the bus was for the environment, which Evans said was an unusual finding. Other common responses were saving money (43%) and avoiding driving (38%).

Participants in an online community survey reported that bus schedule/frequency was the most common issue preventing them from riding the bus (38% of 156 participants). In particular, the end time of service was the most commonly cited limitation.

Some service plan elements recommended in the draft report included the following:

- Extend peak service on Route 1 from 1 pm to 5 pm. Route 1 is the Downtown Circulator and operates every 15 minutes during peak times.
- Eliminate second loop on Route 2T from 3 pm to 5 pm. Route 2T connects White Rock to Los Alamos via the Truck Route and has chronically poor on-time performance caused by traffic backups on this road during rush hour.
- Provide Saturday service – combined microtransit/fixed route options

The draft report recommends that Saturday service be provided between 9 am and 5 pm, during which a fixed route would operate between White Rock and downtown Los Alamos, and microtransit would be made available in the Los Alamos townsite. Evans explained, "Microtransit is similar to Uber or Lyft, where Atomic City Transit would purchase the technology and passengers would download an app on their phone – or they could call if they don't have a phone – and request a ride as long as it's within the service hour parameters and in the location where the service is available."

The benefit of microtransit is that the service could come to one's door in any neighborhood in Los Alamos. "Saturday ridership is typically about half of that on weekdays, so we think this combination of microtransit and fixed route is worth a try as a pilot program in Los Alamos because you have a population who is ecologically savvy and who like to use their phone," said Evans. "It might

not work, but this is the way public transit is going."

Evans emphasized that the biggest obstacle is finding drivers. Additional shifts would also be required for Saturday service. "But...this is a five-year plan so things can change in those terms, and staff is constantly recruiting more drivers."

Recommendations for New Boards

Council reviewed three recent recommendations to establish three new County advisory boards. There are currently twelve standing Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs), and two Ad-hoc committees. In total, those fourteen groups utilize almost 100 community members who volunteer an estimated 250 hours a month in just attending meetings.

Staff reviewed a recommendation by the Los Alamos Resiliency and Environmental Sustainability Board (LARES) to establish a new board focused on environmental sustainability. They found that although the current Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) has focused on solid waste issues, its charter is broad enough to encompass other sustainability concerns without revision. Staff recommended a new board not be established but that the ESB transition to a broader focus. Council unanimously approved this transition.

The Racial Equity and Inclusion Task Force recommended that Council charter a new board focused on equity issues. Staff recommended against a new board and stated that the goals presented by the REI report could be more appropriately addressed by training and staff directed activities. By a vote of 6–1, with Councilor Ryti opposed, Council approved the staff recommendation and did not establish a new board.

A discussion about establishing a permanent board to oversee the Animal Shelter revealed many complex issues. Council directed staff to update the status of the Shelter and revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance in May or June without establishing a new board.

Items Related to Council Operations and Outreach

Councilor Cull initiated a discussion investigating ways for Council to be more transparent and increase public engagement. She proposed more frequent town hall meetings, establishment of regular Council office hours, requiring written Council Liaison reports to be included with agendas, and the release of Council agenda on Thursday instead of Friday. Although all Councilors were reluctant to add to their workload or the workload of staff, all stated their support for at least four town hall meetings on specific topics each year, limited Council office hours, written liaison reports, and an earlier agenda release time. Public comment strongly supported the proposals. Councilor Ryti proposed a motion that these items be referred to the Council Rules Committee to decide the best way to implement the changes. Ryti's motion passed by a vote of 6–1, with Councilor Reagor in opposition.

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Reports – County Council – Regular Session – March 28

The hybrid session was attended by Council Chair Denise Derkacs and Councilor Theresa Cull, Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Keith Lepsch, David Reagor, and Randall Ryti. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda.

Public Hearing on Natural Gas Service Rates

Council voted 6–1, with Councilor Reagor opposed, to pass an ordinance that adjusts the Department of Public Utilities' variable rate cap for natural gas, includes an additional recovery rate component, and adds a compensatory minimum value for the variable portion of the gas rate. These changes go into effect April 8.

The resolution introducing the ordinance states that, "due to the extraordinary and unanticipated consumption of natural gas coupled with unprecedented rise of natural gas prices thereafter, the Department [of Public Utilities] and Utilities Manager have identified the need to create a temporary cost recovery fee in order to recover these costs from customers over time while limiting the impact to monthly bills."

Heather Garcia, Deputy Utilities Manager for Finance and Administration, emphasized that the rate increases were necessary because DPU is operated as an enterprise fund for which revenues and expenditures are segregated from all other County funds. By County Charter, it cannot legally operate in a deficit and so needs a mechanism to recover an estimated multi-million dollar shortfall created when gas prices spiked five-fold over 2021. The additional gas cost recovery rate will remain in place until the shortfall is collected or it will expire on April 28, 2025, whichever comes first.

Councilor Ryti suggested that DPU may need to adjust the income categories included in its utility assistance program (UAP). Funded by donations from utility customers, UAP is available to assist qualified low-income customers or other account holders who demonstrate need due to unforeseen or unusual circumstances. He noted that the County also has financial assistance programs for ways to make homes more energy-efficient.

Reagor opposed the ordinance. He felt that natural gas prices would continue to rise, and a long-term solution was needed. "I would like to see a better plan," he said.

Community Services Department Integrated Master Plan

Council approved 6–1, with Councilor Ryti opposed, the Community Services Department (CSD) Integrated Master Plan (IMP).

The IMP presents a 7-10 year plan for improving organizational reach and impact, improvements to programs/services, and improving facilities/amenities. The hefty plan covers parks and recreational facilities, libraries, social services, and mental and

physical health services. It is intended to be a flexible guidance document that allows for continued input from boards, committees, and residents.

Councilor Ryti said that where the plan addresses open space it should be brought to the Environmental Sustainability Board for additional review.

Nuisance Code and Security Clearance Concern

Council heard a report from Chair Derkacs and Councilor Cull on the County's nuisance code and the effects it has on LANL employees' security clearances. The two councilors met with LANL security management officials, who confirmed that receipt of a Courtesy Letter or Notice of Violation are not required to be reported, but that a citation should be reported unless it has been dismissed or resolved. LANL officials added that the citation alone would not be sufficient grounds to adversely impact someone's clearance status; even a conviction does not necessarily lead to a security review. What does raise security concerns are patterns of repeated offenses, demonstrated unwillingness to comply with laws and questionable actions or judgment.

Nuisance Code Implementation Review Task Force

Council voted to create a Nuisance Code Implementation Review (NCIR) Task Force in February 2023. By roll call vote, Council appointed the following individuals to the task force: John Bloodwood, Bob Day, Philip Gursky, David Hanson, and Kyle Wheeler. Some of their tasks are to

- Review the implementation and interpretation by County staff of the new code;
- Review data and reports for one year, including monthly property maintenance code enforcement reports, courtesy letters, notices of violation, citations, and photographic evidence;
- Engage affected members of the public and relevant County staff;

Local news coverage of this meeting

Kirsten Laskey, *Los Alamos Daily Post*, March 29, 2023,

<https://ladailypost.com/council-action-taken-march-28-2023/>

County News Release, *Los Alamos Daily Post*, March 30, 2023,

<https://ladailypost.com/los-alamos-county-council-adopts-gas-rate-changes/>

County News Release, *Los Alamos Reporter*, April 1, 2023,

<https://ladailypost.com/los-alamos-county-council-adopts-gas-rate-changes/>

Los Alamos Daily Post, March 31, 2023, County Councilor Suzie Havemann Gives Brief On Tuesday Meeting,

<https://ladailypost.com/video-county-councilor-havemann-recaps-meeting/>

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Reports – Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearings – March 8

The Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission conducted three public hearings in a hybrid meeting, attended by Chair Rachel Adler and Commissioners Karen Easton, David Hampton, Benjamin Hill, Charlene Hutchison, Neal Martin, Stephanie Nakhleh, and Rodney Roberson. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda packet

Public hearings to amend Chapter 16, Development Code

P&Z agreed to forward recommendations to County Council to accept the following proposed changes to the Development Code:

1. Increased maximum building height along the edge of Los Alamos Canyon south of Trinity Drive, and
2. Reduced off-street parking requirements for specific uses:
 - a. Clarification that off-street parking

reduction allowances in downtown Los Alamos (50% reduction allowance) and the White Rock Town Center (25% reduction allowance) are not applicable to multi-family dwellings, which are required to provide at least 1 parking space per dwelling unit;

- b. Reduced minimum off-street parking requirements for specific institutional and commercial uses;
- c. Reduced minimum parking requirements when a parking facility is shared by uses with opposite peak parking demand hours; and
- d. Clarification that additional parking reductions may be granted within any zone district if certain amenities are present (public transit stop, bicycle amenities, electrical charging stations, solar parking canopies).

These revisions to the Development Code are tentatively scheduled to be introduced as proposed ordinances at the County Council meeting on April 4, with public hearings at a future meeting.

Code revision to building heights along the edge of Los Alamos Canyon

Applicant request—In December 2022, Council asked the County to evaluate alternative increased building height requirements in the Los Alamos Downtown District (DTLA) south of Trinity Drive, along the edge of Los Alamos Canyon [see observer report in LWVLA *Update*, December 13, 2022 Council meeting]. The County's adopted policies are to allow increased densities in the DTLA and to provide a diverse housing supply, particularly mixed-use developments in downtown areas. To do so, the County needs to minimize building constraints so as to make a project economically attractive to developers and investors. However, the community expressed a competing priority to limit maximum building heights so as to protect or buffer the Los Alamos Canyon edge for trail easements and associated amenities and views.

The recently-adopted Development Code allows a maximum building height of 86 ft in the DTLA north of Trinity Drive (with some restrictions to protect adjacent residential neighborhoods), and a maximum building height of 45 ft between Trinity Drive and the edge of Los Alamos Canyon. County staff, in partnership with consultants Dekker Perich Sabatini (DPS), drafted a compromise that proposes to increase the maximum building height to 54 ft within 150 ft of a property line abutting Los Alamos Canyon.

Commission questions and discussion—Commission discussion focused on the rationale for having a restricted building height at all. Community Development Director Paul Andrus explained, "Where we've been on this as far as staff is concerned is taking the approach to protect the canyon edge, to create the opportunity for the canyon trail to continue as parcels are developed ... and to preserve that experience along the canyon edge."

Commissioner Nakhleh questioned how a reduction in the height of a building, but not its footprint, could possibly be relevant to protecting a trail easement along the canyon edge. DPS consultant Jessica Lawlis explained, "We believe that the intent was to really reduce the massing and the visual impact of those building masses for trail users. There is some planning theory that talks about building setbacks and height step-backs in terms of how you perceive a space."

At the end of the discussion, the motion to recommend Council approval passed 7-0, with Commissioner Easton abstaining.

Code revisions to off-street parking requirements and reduction allowances

Applicant request—In December 2022, Council asked the County to evaluate alternative reductions in parking [see observer report in LWVLA *Update*, December 13, 2022 Council meeting]. As set forth in the CDD staff report, "The County faces a widely recognized housing shortage and struggles to support diverse retail and commercial businesses, even as it remains a desirable place to live. ... [T]he shared parking reduction as approved in the Development Code does not allow the

community to effectively implement its current vision and goals, as described in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Further alternative parking regulations and reduction allowances are imperative in effective development in Downtown Los Alamos (DTLA) Zone District and White Rock Town Center (WRTC) Zone Districts.”

Consultants Dekker Perich Sabatini (DPS) presented data that had been requested by Council to provide some context for changes to minimum off-street parking requirements, particularly in downtown areas. For example, 30% of the developable land in downtown Los Alamos and nearly as much in the White Rock Town Center is paved on-site surface parking. Much of that parking sits empty most of the time, even on a workday.

Several developers have walked away from projects due to building height and parking restrictions. Andrus said, “I can think of three fairly significant projects where we had conversations and it was pretty clear that our current code wasn’t going to accommodate the vision, meaning the goal of densities and units and the idea that we would be increasing the housing supply, hopefully having an impact on affordability. ... My feeling is that the elements that we’re looking at here and what we already have in the approved Development Code is significantly better, in those respects. ... I would say the projects that have been envisioned that we have seen, our new code is much more helpful to achieve those goals than it was.”

Commission discussion—Commissioner Easton observed that, if the County is going to reduce on-site parking requirements, then it should consider that almost every one of the underutilized parking lots has had some thought given to development. “So, try to envision that those spaces are actually going to have buildings on them. And then you’ll start to understand the compression that you’re going to see downtown and the pressures on parking and why in parallel we need to develop a transportation plan to address that.”

Commissioner Hampton asked Andrus to talk about parking garages that the County is possibly planning to build, which he felt should

help relieve some of the pressure downtown.” Andrus replied, “The two new downtown plans really promote this idea of an overall transit plan, and a major element to that is the County looking at strategic parcels [in downtown LA] that perhaps the County could partner with to help get a parking structure along with a transit center or node, with transit coming up the Hill.”

Commission decision—The motion to recommend Council approval passed unanimously.

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

March Lunch with a Leader: Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule

The Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability Task Force (LARES) concluded their work in February 2022 with a list of recommendations, including the creation of a new position of Sustainability Manager. Angelica Gurule was appointed to fill that role in November 2022. She served previously as the County’s Director of Environmental Services in the Public Works Department. The new position has been moved to the County Manager’s Office. Gurule told the League that her education included studying sustainable environmental resources management in Malta, an island nation where most food must be imported and half of the potable water is produced through desalinization.

Gurule will focus on all aspects of sustainability: energy, water, conservation, waste, care for the forest. She will work with the Utilities Department as well as Environmental Services. Her first task is to develop a climate action plan. To start, a

consultant will be hired to conduct a consumption-based analysis of greenhouse gas emissions in the County, categorized by sector. Once the baseline has been established, the County can devise actions to reduce the emissions. Gurule said that this is a year-long project needing community input.

She went on to describe the food composting program that the Council approved in 2022. The goal is to divert 1500 tons of food waste from the landfill, mixing it with yard trimmings to make compost that can be used in vegetable gardens, unlike the compost that is available now, which includes waste sludge from the sewage treatment plant. Using windrow technology, the project will be located in Bayo Canyon across the road from the current compost program. Gurule has submitted a federal grant application to fund the program.

Other plans include an Environmental Services project - developing a reuse center at Overlook where people can drop off or pick up useful items, diverting them from the waste stream. Also, registration for Clean Up Los Alamos Day on April 29 is underway. Residents are encouraged to sign up by April 22.

In response to questions about recycling, Gurule commented that the County spends a lot of money to educate the community about how to do it properly. If in doubt about how to dispose of an item, download Recycle Coach, which has all the answers. Remember that there are dumpsters for cardboard at the fire station, Overlook, and the Lemon Lot. Material disposed of there goes straight to Bio Pappel, where it is used to manufacture new products. The County is also paid for glass placed in the glass dumpsters.

Gurule is enthusiastic about her new position and eager to enlist even more community members to help make Los Alamos an environmentally sustainable county.

Barbara Calef

League Dues Are Due in April!

Dues for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, which begins May 1, will be accepted any time, but save postage and bring your check and membership form to the Annual meeting.

Please fill out the membership form in this newsletter, even if you are already a member. Alternatively, you can renew your membership online at: <https://my.lwv.org/new-mexico/los-alamos>. The membership form includes useful information for our membership chair, so please fill it out even if you have been a member for years.

Annual Meeting of LWVLA

Following Lunch with a Leader on April 20, we will hold our Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the Unitarian Church. It will begin at 1:10 p.m. and end by 2:30. During the Annual Meeting we will review our positions, decide on the program for the following year, vote on proposed bylaws changes, approve the budget, and elect a new board. Please mark your calendars!

Agenda

- 1:10 p.m. Business Meeting begins
- Minutes of the 2022 Meeting (sent out in advance)
- President's Report
- Membership Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Adoption of Local Program (positions, study, plans for action)
- Consideration of Bylaws Amendments
- Adoption of the FY 2023-24 Budget
- Election of Officers and Directors

Proposed Program for 2023-2024

The program planning meeting was held on January 30 and the results were subsequently discussed by the board. Here are the current LWVLA positions and the board's recommendations for the next year:

LWV Los Alamos Positions

At the Annual Meeting members will be asked to re-adopt our local League positions.

SUSTAINABILITY (Adopted 1995; Revised 1997, 2004, 2008, 2015)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos endorses the concept of a sustainable society as a preamble for all of its current and new positions. We define a sustainable society as one that satisfies its own needs without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations. We aspire to make our society more sustainable by preserving and respecting its interdependence with the natural world. A sustainable society protects nature. Our society should offer all individuals a clean environment including pure water, unpolluted air, and sufficient sources of renewable energy to provide for their physical needs. Our society should distribute scarce resources equitably so that conflicts over them are minimized. Every working person should be paid a living wage.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (Adopted 1965; Revised 1991, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2013)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that public transportation is an essential element of a sustainable society in so far as it conserves natural resources and decreases pollution. Public transportation is also important economically and socially as an alternative to the current norm of one commuter per car. Public transportation can benefit all citizens including workers, students, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public transportation should be affordable, convenient and reliable. The County should extend the existing County system and continue to subsidize and support the expansion of the regional system.

In order to sustain clean air and healthy ways of living, an emphasis should be placed on developing infrastructure to encourage pedestrians and cyclists. Land use decisions should support this emphasis by promoting higher density mixed-use development.

ENVIRONMENT (Adopted 2012, Revised 2014, 2017)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that our natural environment is integral to our community's unique sense of place and to our well-being and prosperity.

- We support protection of this environment, including the canyons and other open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and dark skies.
- To improve ecosystem health and community livability, we support wherever possible “Green Infrastructure.” EPA defines this as “... an array of products, technologies, and practices that use natural systems – or engineered systems that mimic natural processes – to enhance overall environmental quality.... Green Infrastructure techniques use soils and vegetation to infiltrate, evapotranspire, and/or recycle storm water runoff.”

Further Guidelines

The LWVLA supports the implementation of the Open Space Management Plan, which develops a system of designated open space to protect scenic vistas and memorable landscapes; recreational, natural and cultural resources; and significant wildlife corridors and habitats.

- We support adoption of a Rendija Canyon master plan that reserves the transfer land for recreational uses only.
- We support adoption of a storm water management plan that employs green infrastructure strategies, such as infiltration planters, vegetated swales, tree boxes, and rain gardens.
- We support adding green spaces in the downtown with landscaped road edges, medians, parking lots, and pocket parks.
- We support limiting the use of herbicides in open space areas, as well as along roadsides where mowing and planting native grasses can be as effective.
- We support a policy of zero increase in run-off beyond the natural rate for commercial and private property.
- We support implementation of all the policies in the Protect the Environment section of the LAC Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council in 2005.
- We support implementation of the goals in the Open Space section of the LAC Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council in 2016.

Execution of the actions suggested in Further Guidelines will improve the quality of our air and water.

SUSTAINABLE WATER (Adopted 2009; Revised 2012, 2014, 2017)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos (LWVLA) believes that the goal of our county should be to use no more water than can be produced from our aquifer without depleting it. In order to achieve this goal, decisions about growth must consider water use. Even with the current population in Los Alamos, conservation is essential.

For the sake of the public welfare, the County should be guided in all decisions by the following policies:

- Encourage conservation and efficiency of use.
- Preserve riparian ecosystems and wetlands.
- Preserve public lands, water, and open space.

Further Guidelines

To reduce per capita consumption, we support:

- economic incentives,
- codification of standards for all new construction,
- encouraging conservation practices for existing homes.

We support the County's efforts to apply water efficiency standards in new construction, to reduce leaks, and to irrigate the parks with wastewater effluent. The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) should educate consumers about best irrigation practices, including how to use gray water, and should provide economic incentives to conserve. We support the inclined block rate ordinance.

Residential conservation and vigilance on the part of the DPU will not suffice to achieve sustainability. The LWVLA advocates:

- requiring growth or development to be compatible with the availability of water for the indefinite future without requiring the diversion of the San Juan-Chama water;
- careful monitoring and continuing study of the aquifer;
- increased efforts by the County to participate in and assure that regional and state plans are sustainable;
- engaging the public in the water budget process.

The LWVLA recommends that the County continue to maintain its quota of San Juan-Chama water until a decision is made to build the infrastructure needed to utilize it, and that any plans for use of the water be designed to minimize the impact on White Rock Canyon.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Adopted 1996; Revised 2003, 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos supports the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing in the county. LWV Los Alamos believes that affordable housing units should be integrated into neighborhoods throughout Los Alamos County. New developments should have a mix of market-rate and affordable units.

We acknowledge that some type of subsidy by the county is required to achieve affordable prices.

Effective methods to keep these units affordable when they are resold must be in place if we are to retain a stock of affordable housing. For instance, land provided as a subsidy could be retained in a trust.

FULLER LODGE (Adopted 1992, Revised 2004)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that Fuller Lodge should be used primarily for civic and cultural activities. Activities not open to the general public should be charged at a rate comparable to that charged by local businesses for equivalent space. Activities open to the general public should be charged at a lower rate.

The County should continue to be responsible for the maintenance, restoration, and protection of the Lodge.

MEDICALLY INDIGENT FUND (Adopted 1988; Revised 2004, 2008, 2017)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos supports the County ordinance establishing the Indigent Health Care Fund, which funds the county's Health Care Assistance Program through designated GRT monies. Desirable features of such an ordinance include:

- A limit for the amount of reimbursement.

- Provisions for changes in this limit because of changing medical costs or demands on the fund.
- Possible reimbursement of costs beyond hospital and ambulance services.
- Consideration of for-profit health care providers, but with non-profit facilities given first consideration.

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION: RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS (Adopted Oct. 31, 2013)

LWVLA supports the development of residential neighborhoods that are sustainable and livable. To achieve those goals, we believe that new and redeveloped neighborhoods should be designed to minimize sprawl and impact on the natural environment. Neighborhoods should support a diverse population with inviting streets and public spaces as well as access to public transportation.

Further Guidelines:

1. Where to build (efficient use of land that minimizes sprawl)
 - a. Neighborhoods near the downtown should be compact.
 - b. New development should not consume or fragment important natural habitats or wildlife corridors; it should be avoided on steep slopes or in canyons.
 - c. Redevelopment of “brownfields” and infill are preferred over new development in pristine landscapes. However, existing small neighborhood parks should be maintained or enhanced to reflect the unique character of the neighborhood.
 - d. Neighborhoods should be situated along available public transit lines and within easy access of daily activities.
2. What to build (neighborhood pattern/design)
 - a. Cluster homes to make transit more viable and to create walkable neighborhoods.
 - b. Design streets and pathways for safe and pleasant walking/biking within neighborhood.
 - c. Include a range of housing types/sizes to support diverse neighborhood population; include a mix of affordable housing within each neighborhood.
 - d. Encourage ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) designs in individual homes to accommodate all ages and abilities.
 - e. Encourage the preservation of the positive character/architecture unique to each neighborhood.
 - f. The developer should include quality parks, trails, and public spaces within each neighborhood; the option of allowing payment in lieu of parks provision should be restricted.
3. How to build (how to manage environmental impacts)
 - a. Reduce storm water runoff and eliminate pollution sources.
 - b. Emphasize energy and water efficiency of streets and buildings; plan orientation of buildings to optimize solar gain.
 - c. Reuse older buildings to reduce energy and resource use as appropriate.
 - d. Encourage building materials that support high indoor air quality and are sourced sustainably.
 - e. Encourage appropriate landscaping based on native and xeric plants; create a streetscape with shade trees appropriate for our climate.
 - f. Minimize light pollution.

EDUCATION (Adopted 2015)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that a strong, collaborative relationship between K-12 education leaders and citizens must exist in order for the school district to successfully deliver education services meeting community standards. This belief is consistent with the League of Women Voters expectations for the relationship between citizens and all government entities.

As an elected body, the School Board should actively solicit and weigh heavily community input when making strategic planning and funding decisions. In order for citizens to provide educated and meaningful feedback, they need to be involved in the strategic planning process and have access to information about the district's direction, the issues it faces, and its financial situation.

The strategic plan describes how the School Board addresses the needs of the children, including but not limited to academic goals, class size, enrichment programs (i.e., art, music, and athletics), vocational training, special education, and counseling. The strategic plan also discusses the facilities plans, enrollment trends, current financial budget, 5-year financial forecast, community involvement plan, and public communication plan.

In order for the School Board to solicit and incorporate community input into their strategic planning and annual budgeting processes, communication mechanisms need to be created and maintained as an essential part of the board's business activities. Examples of communication mechanisms that achieve this objective are: community surveys; a formal strategic planning process that incorporates citizen input; an Open Forum-type online feedback service; Facebook and other social media; and smaller district meetings between school board members and constituents.

In order for the community to learn about and participate in strategic planning and funding decisions, the School Board needs to routinely provide relevant information to the public as a normal part of the board's business activities. That information would include: issues, options and data provided in advance of decision-making deadlines; reporting on decisions made; and access to key policy documents like budgets and the strategic plan. The LAPS website should be the board's primary communication vehicle. To be effective, it needs to have the following characteristics: easily found, accessible 24x7, and possessing a robust search capability. Examples of other communication mechanisms that can be utilized include: broadcasting board meetings on PAC 8; sending email newsletters to subscribers; using smart phone apps to share information with community members; and using local media to communicate open issues and final decisions. The information presented should be in a format that is understandable to the typical citizen, and be timely and relevant to the issues.

DIGITAL PRIVACY (Adopted 2021)

County government should place a high priority on the privacy of citizens when selecting and using software, digital platforms, digital services, and when contracting for digital work, particularly when these platforms are used to interact with residents. These expectations also extend to those working as sub-contractors for the County.

The County should clearly identify third-party digital services and platforms at the point of use along with links to the privacy and user agreements for the software. However, just linking to a privacy agreement isn't enough; County government should make every effort to use services that don't compromise citizens' privacy.

If a digital platform is known to be intrusive, an alternative, less-intrusive method of receiving the same information or accessing the service should be provided. In this context, for example, most social media are considered to be digitally intrusive and do not qualify as alternatives.

Positions

The ***Environment Position*** should be updated to specify the policies we support rather than referring to the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and the Open Space Management Plan.

Actions

The League will focus on the following issues:

- composting
- the County's use of consultants
- open space: finish rezoning, consideration of additional protections
- support for the recommendations of the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability Task Force (LARES).

Study

The board recommends adoption of the following study, proposed by Jody Benson:

Should large scale pit production for nuclear weapons occur in Los Alamos?

Scope

1. Background information
 - a. Explain/define pits and how they are used for nuclear weapons.
 - b. Where were the former pit factories and why was production discontinued there?
 - c. What is the current plan for pit production?
2. Does the country need to build new pits?
 - a. Evidence pro and con that the existing weapons are not viable
 - b. Are they needed for new weapons?
 - c. Effect of production on national security—pro (deterrence) and con (increased tension)
3. If new pits are needed, why build them in Los Alamos?
 - a. Why not build them at Pantex?
 - b. Advantages (jobs, federal dollars) and disadvantages (safety and environmental issues) of building them in Los Alamos.

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

The following amendments to the bylaws have been approved by the board. Members will vote on them at the Annual Meeting on April 20. Underlined material is new. [Bracketed text] is to be deleted.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3. VACANCIES

Any vacancy existing in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member other than the president¹, may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. ~~[Any officer who misses three consecutive board meetings may be removed by a majority vote of the Board.]~~ Three consecutive absences from a board meeting without notification to the president or secretary and without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1. ENUMERATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The officers of LWV/LA shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a First Vice President/President-Elect, a Second Vice President, the Past President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

¹ Provisions for filling the vacancy in the presidency are made in Article VI, Section 3

The office of President shall be filled by the advancement of the First Vice-President/President-Elect at the beginning of the fiscal year. The other officers: First Vice President/President-Elect, Second Vice-President, the Past President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be elected for terms of one year at the annual meeting. They shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year and shall serve one year or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. In the absence or disability of the President, the Executive Committee shall possess all the powers and perform the duties of that office until that office is filled.

Section 2. THE PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and of the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 3. THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as the President and Board may designate. The two Vice Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability or death of the President possess all of the powers and perform all the duties of the presidency until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members or a former President to fill the vacancy in the office of President. In the event of the resignation, disability or death of the First Vice President/President-Elect, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board. Before the office holder may succeed to the presidency at the next annual meeting, that name shall be submitted, with those of the other nominees for office, to the membership for vote.

Section 4. THE PAST PRESIDENT

The president from the previous year will provide guidance and continuity to the board.

Section [4] 5. THE SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors; shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform other such functions as may be incident to the office.

Section [5] 6. THE TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due; shall be custodian of the moneys, shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same in accordance with the budget. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report at Annual Meeting.

Section [6] 7. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be composed of five members of the Board designated by the board. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos	Adopted Budget FY23 Adjust. (4/2022) (05/01/22-04/30/23)	FY23 Actuals Year-To-Date (05/01/22-02/01/23)	Adopted Budget FY24 (4/2022) (05/01/23-04/30/24)	Proposed Adjust. Budget FY24 (05/01/23-04/30/24)	Proposed Budget FY25 (05/01/24-04/30/25)
EXPENSE					
A. Administration					
1. President's Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
2. Secretary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Treasurer	\$256.00	\$212.00	\$256.00	\$256.00	\$256.00
4. Board tools	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. Communications					
a. Newsletter	\$300.00	\$393.00	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
b. Website + Domain Name	\$560.86	\$605.14	\$560.86	\$560.86	\$560.86
6. Other Administrative					
a. Travel (unassigned)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Printing (doesn't include voter guide or newsletter)	\$250.00	\$22.56	\$250.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
c. Paypal	\$80.00	\$55.59	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00
d. Zoom membership	\$150.00	\$84.68	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
e. Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Total Administration	\$1,646.86	\$1,372.97	\$1,646.86	\$1,746.86	\$1,746.86
B. Per Member Payment (PMP)					
1. State (footnote 1)	\$1,242.00		\$1,242.00	\$1,326.00	\$1,326.00
2. National (footnote 2)	\$3,056.00		\$3,056.00	\$3,264.00	\$3,264.00
Total PMP	\$4,298.00	\$4,905.00	\$4,298.00	\$4,590.00	\$4,590.00
C. Committees					
1. Fundraising	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
2. Membership	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Lunch with a Leader	\$200.00		\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
4. Arrangements	\$175.00	\$465.00	\$175.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
a. Other (Publicity)	\$200.00		\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Committees	\$675.00	\$615.00	\$675.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
D. Position Support					
1. National	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2. State	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Local (footnote 3)	\$60.00		\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Total Position Support	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
E. League Meetings					
1. National Convention (footnote 4)	\$2,670.00	\$2,645.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
2. State Council	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. State Convention (footnote 5)	\$0.00		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
4. LWVLA annual mtg	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total LWV Meetings	\$2,670.00	\$2,645.65	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$5,000.00
F. Program					
1. Voter Services (footnote 6)	\$7,112.00	\$2,276.04	\$2,671.00	\$2,671.00	\$7,500.00
2. Local Government	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Legislative Preview	\$80.00		\$80.00	\$80.00	\$100.00
4. Other Program	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Total Program	\$7,192.00	\$2,276.04	\$2,751.00	\$2,751.00	\$7,850.00
G. Other					
1. Other Forums (footnote 7)	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
2. Other (footnote 8)	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,541.86	\$11,814.66	\$10,930.86	\$12,197.86	\$20,796.86

Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25 (cont'd.)

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos	Adopted Budget FY23 Adjust. (4/2022) (05/01/22-04/30/23)	FY23 Actuals Year-To-Date (05/01/22-02/01/23)	Adopted Budget FY24 (4/2022) (05/01/23-04/30/24)	Proposed Adjust. Budget FY24 (05/01/23-04/30/24)	Proposed Budget FY25 (05/01/24-04/30/25)
INCOME					
A. Dues (footnote 9)					
1. Single	\$1,800.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,890.00	\$1,890.00
2. Single Sustaining	\$900.00	\$450.00	\$900.00	\$1,125.00	\$1,125.00
3. Household	\$910.00	\$345.00	\$910.00	\$1,120.00	\$1,120.00
4. Household Sustaining	\$1,235.00	\$1,045.00	\$1,235.00	\$1,330.00	\$1,330.00
5. Student & Life	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Dues	\$4,845.00	\$2,920.00	\$4,845.00	\$5,465.00	\$5,465.00
B. Contributions (Donations)					
1. Members	\$900.00	\$385.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
2. Non-members	\$1,950.00	\$1,320.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00
3. Businesses	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Non-Profits/Foundations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$3,600.00	\$1,705.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,850.00	\$2,850.00
C. Miscellaneous					
1. Interest	\$0.47	\$8.79	\$0.50	\$8.00	\$10.00
2. Other	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. State Council	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Forum Partners	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
5. State Convention (footnote 10)	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Total Miscellaneous	\$0.47	\$6.79	\$0.50	\$1,558.00	\$60.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,445.47	\$4,631.79	\$8,445.50	\$9,873.00	\$8,375.00
NET OPERATING INCOME (INCOME less EXPENSES)	(\$8,096.39)	(\$7,182.87)	(\$2,485.36)	(\$2,324.86)	(\$12,421.86)
CASH POSITION FISCAL YEAR END					
Checking & Savings Account (May 1 - beginning of fiscal year)	\$29,776.48			\$28,938.41	\$26,613.55
Net Operating Income	(\$8,096.39)			(\$2,324.86)	(\$12,421.86)
TOTAL CASH POSITION (Apr 30 - end of fiscal year) (checking + savings accounts)	\$21,680.09	\$28,938.41		\$26,613.55	\$14,191.69

Footnotes: EXPENSES

- 1 - B.1.: FY24&25 Prop. Budg. based on actual FY23 members (88 memberships/118 members). State PMP: Sing. 57 @ \$13; House 30 @ \$19.50; Life/Hon. 1 @ \$0; Stud 0 @ \$0.
- 2 - B.2.: FY24&25 Prop. Budg based on 118 members (88 memb types). National PMP: Sing. 57 @ \$32; House 30 @ \$48; Life/Hon. 1 @ \$0; Stud 0 @ \$0.
- 3 - D.3: FY24, studies carried over from FY21 - Waste Mgt
- 4 - E.1.: FY23 National Convention TBD - Jun, 2024 funds for registration, air travel and hotel.
- 5 - E.3: FY24 State Convention-in Los Alamos (reimbursed in INCOME C.5.)
- 6 - F.1: FY 24 hold 1 candidate forum and print 1 voter guides (school board); FY25 primary & general elections hold 4 candidate forums & 2 voter guides
- 7 - G.1.: (Carried over from FY21 due to COVID) - FY22 two add'l forums (Increased LANL pit prod & Loss of obgyn svcs in LA) - venue & advertising
- 8 - G.1.: FY24 and FY25 PAC8 Filming of Forums and/or Studies to share on website and Facebook.

Footnotes: INCOME

- 9 - A.1.: FY24&25 Dues 118 members (88 Memb/Types): Sing 42@\$45; SingSust 15@\$75; House 16@\$70; HouseSust 14@\$95; Life/Hon. 1@\$0; Stud 0@\$0)
- 10 - C.5.: FY24 State Convention reimbursement \$1,500 (spent in EXPENSES E.3)

LWVLA Nominations for 2023-2024

The Nominations Committee, composed of Ellen Mills and Leslie Wallstrom, presents the following slate of nominees for the 2023-2024 LWVLA Board of Directors:

Officers:

- President: Felicia Orth
- 1st Vice-President: *open*
- 2nd Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- Past President: Barbara Calef (if the bylaws change is accepted)
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken
- Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson (*would welcome a replacement*)

Directors:

- Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
- Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Newsletter: Bob Williams
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Director-at-Large: Akkana Peck
- Director-at-Large: Addie Jacobson
- Director-at-Large: Becky Shankland
- Voter Guide Editor: *open*

Off-Board Directors:

- Arrangements: Wendy Swanson
- Nominating Committee: *open (two slots)*
- Fundraising: Ellen Mills, Leslie Wallstrom, Tracy McFarland
- Observer Corps: June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin
- Membership: Jean Dewart
- Website/Social Media: Madhavi Garimella, Helena Whyte
- Video: Eduardo Santiago

Tickler Report – Tentative Council Agenda Items

Tickler Report Tentative Council Agenda Items for April 2023

This is a partial list of tentative Council agenda items. All of the items are subject to change.

- Revise Scope of Pueblo Canyon Conceptual Trail Project to an Updated County Trails & Open Space Management Plan
 - Possible action at 4/4/23 meeting
- Launch of a Local Adopt-A-Road Program in Los Alamos County
 - Possible action at 4/4/23 meeting
- General Services Agreement for additional Golf Course Design Services
 - Action at 4/4/23 meeting
- General Services Agreement for Feral Cattle Capture
 - Action at 4/4/23 meeting
- Ordinance to revise off-street parking requirements in downtown districts (Development Code)
 - Introduction of ordinance at 4/4/23 meeting
- Ordinance to increase maximum building height south of Trinity Drive in downtown Los Alamos (Development Code)
 - Introduction of ordinance at 4/4/23 meeting
- Briefing by Representative Chris Chandler - Providing an Overview of the 2022 Legislative Session
 - Presentation at 4/4/23 meeting
- FY2024 Budget Hearings
 - Action requested at 4/17-18/23 and 4/24-25/23 hearings

Tickler Report – County BCC Vacancies

County BCC Vacancies as of March 31, 2023

Los Alamos County has 12 standing Boards and Commissions (BCCs). Generally, the purpose of a board is to serve in an advisory capacity to the County Council, but some have statutory responsibilities as well. All BCCs are listed below, along with their vacancies, including terms ending within 6 months.

• Art in Public Places Board	2
• Board of Public Utilities	0
• County Health Council	5
• Environmental Sustainability Board	1
• Historic Preservation Advisory Board	0
• Labor Management Relations Board	0
• Library Board	0
• Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board	0
• Parks and Recreation Board	1
• Personnel Board	1
• Planning and Zoning Commission	4
• Transportation Board	2

Interested Los Alamos County residents may submit an online application by visiting the County's Boards and Commissions webpage and selecting "apply."

https://www.losalamosnm.us/government/boards__commissions

LWVLA Board of Directors 2022-2023

Officers:

- Co-president: Barbara Calef
- Co-president: Rebecca Shankland
- 1st Vice-President: Felicia Orth
- 2nd Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken
- Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson

Directors:

- Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Voter Services: Lynn Jones
- Newsletter Editor: Robert Williams
- Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
- Director at Large: Addie Jacobson
- Director at Large: Akkana Peck

Off-board Directors:

- Arrangements: Wendy Swanson
- County Council and P&Z Observers: June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin
- Membership: Jean Dewart
- Nominations: Ellen Mills & Leslie Wallstrom
- Website and Facebook: Madhavi Garimella and Helena Whyte
- Video Editor: Eduardo Santiago



MEMBERSHIP FORM

LWV Los Alamos/ P.O. Box 158 / Los Alamos, NM 87544

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

Membership Categories: All checks for memberships and contributions should be payable to LWV-Los Alamos and all are tax-deductible. Let us know if you'd like a tax-deduction statement. A substantial portion of Single and Household membership dues support state and national League of Women Voters work. The additional funds from sustaining single or household memberships support Los Alamos LWV initiatives such as the Voter Guide, candidate forums, etc.

____ Single membership: \$45

____ Household membership (two or more people at the same address): \$70

____ Single Sustaining membership: \$75

____ Household Sustaining membership (two or more people at the same address): \$95

____ Student membership: Free (must be 16 or over)

____ Additional donation to support the Los Alamos LWV work: \$_____

____ Check here to receive our Newsletter *Update* as an electronic file, saving postage and paper

____ **OR** Check here if you prefer to have a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to you.

____ Check here to receive occasional friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.

Ways to help the League if you wish to be an active member (check as many as apply)

____ Register voters at events such as the Farmers Market. Training by the County Clerk's office

____ Organize/provide refreshments at forums when we meet in person.

____ Observer Corps: Watch Council, DPU, P&Z meetings etc. and write a short summary to publish in our newsletter. (All meetings are recorded, so you can watch them later.)

____ Write newsletter articles on a local issue or League activity.

____ Assist in developing the Voter Guide: edit, develop questions, enter data onto League database, work with news publications to get the information printed, etc.

____ Assist with Lunch with a Leader: order/deliver lunches when we meet in person, help set up tables.

____ Website/social media: technical assistance and content development.

____ Advocate for League positions: communicate with local, state, and federal leaders.

____ Serve on the LWV-Los Alamos Board.

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