

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
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Calendar

January 11	LWVNM Legislative Preparation, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
January 16	NM Legislature convenes at noon
January 18	Lunch with a Leader, Unitarian Church, Deputy DPU Manager Clay Moseley, noon
January 18	Board Meeting, Unitarian Church, 1 p.m.
January 24	LWVNM Reception, Rio Chama, Santa Fe, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
January 25	League Day at the Legislature, State Land Office, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
January 29	Program Planning Party, 1577 Camino Medio, North Mesa, 5:30 p.m.

January Lunch with a Leader: Deputy DPU Manager Clay Moseley

On January 18, Clay Moseley, the Deputy Utility Manager for Gas, Water, and Sewer Services will be the Lunch with a Leader speaker at the Unitarian church from noon until 1 p.m. League members will receive information via email about buying lunch from Pig & Fig.

Moseley is responsible for operation of the natural gas distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, and water production and distribution systems. He joined DPU's engineering division in 2000 to bolster the post-Cerro Grande Fire recovery program team.

He has more than 25 years of experience in infrastructure evaluation, planning, design and project management. However, his first job out of college was with an Albuquerque architecture/engineering firm that specialized in facility condition assessments and operational evaluations that included both LANL and Los Alamos County facilities. He later worked for Johnson Controls Northern New Mexico and with the Facilities and Waste Operations group at LANL for two years. Moseley holds Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and Master of Science in Engineering Construction Management degrees.



Clay Moseley, League speaker on January 18. Photo by Clay Moseley.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

President's Message: Around the Roundhouse

At the beginning of each new year, the League's focus turns to the New Mexico Legislature. As this is an even-numbered year, the 2024 session will continue for just 30 days, from January 16 to February 15. Pre-session related events include a legislative preview in Los Alamos on January 4, a state League advocacy workshop on January 6, and a state League legislative preparation meeting on January 11.

During the session, the annual state League legislative reception at Rio Chama is always a pleasure, with League members from around the state, good food, and an interesting presentation. In February 2023, former Senator Jeff Bingaman shared some insights from his new book "Breakdown, Lessons for a Congress in Crisis." This year the reception is on January 24 and the speaker will be Attorney General Raúl Torrez. Earlier in the day, the League will staff three tables in the West Hall of History at the Roundhouse. Our table last year drew many folks and provided many opportunities for conversation around fair districts, democracy, education, and our advocacy.

Finally, League Day at the Legislature this year is on January 25, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the State Land Office where we will hear from State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard, Heather Balas of the Election Reformers Network, and Paige Knight from NM Voices for Children.

Felicia Orth

Farewell, Don Machen

Don Machen died December 30, surrounded by his wife Judy and their children Jonathan and Patty. Don was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters and served on several County boards and commissions, including the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Environmental Sustainability Board.

LWVLA Program Planning Party January 29

All League members are invited to participate in the Program Planning Party beginning at 5:30 on Monday, January 29 at the home of Ellen Mills. We will have a potluck supper followed by a discussion about our positions and plans for action. You can find our local positions on our website at <https://my.lwv.org/new-mexico/los-alamos>. Please take a look to see if there is something missing. We can also lobby our local government using state and national League positions. Many of you listed local government as one of your interests. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss how our County government is run.

This year much of our time will be devoted to the primary and general elections. We will need support for our candidate forums and voter guides. How would you like to be involved?

In June the national League will hold its biennial convention. In preparation for the meeting, they have sent out a Program Planning Survey to give us an opportunity to suggest how we want them to focus their efforts. We will fill out the survey together.

Please join the meeting; tell us what you are thinking!

Observer Corps Report – County Council – December 5, 2023

Minimum Wage, CDD Update, Proposed MRA Designation

The regular session was attended by Vice Chair Theresa Cull, and Councilors Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Keith Lepsch, David Reagor, and Randall Rytty. Chair Denise Derkacs was absent. Our observer report is based on discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda package.

Minimum Wage Ordinance

Council introduced a proposed ordinance establishing a minimum wage in Los Alamos. Its purpose is to raise the income of low-income employees of businesses within Los Alamos County.

With an effective date of July 1, 2025, the ordinance would include a local minimum wage of \$15.00/hr., with minimums of \$3.75/hr for tipped workers and \$13.50/hr for student workers. In subsequent years, increases to the minimum wages would be tied to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

A public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for January 30, 2024.

Community Development Department (CDD) Update

Paul Andrus, CDD Director, led an informative presentation on the CDD structure and processes. No action was requested.

CDD is organized into five divisions: planning; economic development and housing; building safety; code compliance; and administration. Using flowcharts, Andrus outlined the steps required for proposed development projects, business registration, and building plan reviews, and also the role of the different CDD divisions at each point in the process from start to finish.

Andrus and Dan Ungerleider, the CDD Economic Development Administrator, updated the Council on several housing and business projects and initiatives. These include The Bluffs Senior Apartments on DP Road, The Hills Apartments at the location of the former Los Alamos Site Office, the Hilltop project at the site of the former Hilltop House Hotel, Arkansas Place on Arkansas Avenue, and the Mari-Mac mixed-use development project at the site of the former Mari-Mac Shopping Center. [See *Daily Post* article for details.]

Andrus and Ungerleider briefly described several CDD priorities for 2024. The long list included updating the County's Affordable Housing Plan and making additional changes to the County's Development Code.

- **Affordable Housing Plan.** "We are in the beginning stages of updating our Affordable Housing Plan," said Ungerleider. Dan Osborn, the CDD's Housing Program manager, is working on the update with the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA). MFA approval of the housing plan will be critical to the success of affordable housing projects, such as the North Mesa Housing Project, because MFA provides financing to make affordable housing available to low- and moderate-income New Mexicans.
- **Chapter 16 Development Code.** Topics that CDD will be exploring in 2024 include canyon-edge regulations, rezoning some parcels in town to open space, parking regulations for housing and commercial properties, regulation of accessory dwelling units and short-term rentals, and incorporation of Los Alamos Resiliency Energy and Sustainability (LARES) Task Force's recommendations (such as transitioning away from natural gas) into the building code.

Andrus also suggested that it might be prudent for the County to update its 2016 Comprehensive Plan in 2025, noting that staff felt some parts of the plan are outdated and that the process is a lengthy one.

Council questions and discussion

Council focused on licensing processes, photovoltaic installation permits, customer feedback, performance metrics, project applications, communication to the public about project status, and regional development initiatives.

Business licenses.

Councilor Hand observed that, at least from an outsider's perspective, it appeared that local business owners sometimes had more difficulty obtaining a business license than did businesses from outside the County. Councilor Reagor echoed her comment, referring to the speed with which Starbucks was able to establish a new store along Trinity Drive compared to the slower progress for the new locally-owned coffee shop occupying the previous Starbucks store in downtown Los Alamos.

Andrus explained that, although the same processes for obtaining a license apply to all applicants, several factors contribute to differences in the rate of progress. Each situation is unique as to the resources available to the business, said Andrus. These include the availability of financing, professional architects, administrative personnel dedicated to planning and licensing, contractors, and experience with the whole process. Andrus added that outside businesses often do not have a physical location that needs to be reviewed, e.g., for zoning compliance, which can slow down the process for a local business to obtain a license.

Permits for rooftop photovoltaic (PV) installations.

Councilor Havemann raised concerns about the uneven experience of homeowners with the permitting process for a rooftop photovoltaic installation. "Permitting for rooftop PVs is one of the major obstacles nationwide," she said. "[PV installation] fits in with the Climate Action Plan and the LARES group recommendations. It's nice that the [CDD] site gives me the steps, but if it doesn't tell me how long it is going to take, it doesn't help me plan and it doesn't

inform me if I want to complain or ask for a better way to do it."

Andrus replied that clear guidance on the steps is important, but emphasized that the role of CDD is limited to reviewing how the PV panels are being attached to the roof. He pointed out that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) also has a role in the permitting process. "I've seen varying degrees of response, of turnaround times, for a number of different reasons," said Andrus. There are actually three permits required: one from CDD for the structural permit; one from DPU; and one from the State. So, trying to coordinate all of those and then to give a time frame is pretty difficult. Andrus agreed that CDD could work with DPU to do a better job managing customer expectations.

Customer feedback and performance measures.

CDD reported that it had made 58 changes to its policies and procedures over the past few years. Councilor Hand asked Andrus if CDD was monitoring these changes to identify possible glitches as well as opportunities for continuous improvements. Following up, Councilors Ryti and Havemann asked how CDD obtained feedback from its business customers and whether it had defined performance metrics related to its policies and processes.

Andrus answered that feedback was presently collected by a box with a comment sheet. He agreed that a better mechanism could be put into place to ask more specific questions, similar to that used to obtain feedback about Chapter 18 code compliance, and that more detailed feedback could be useful for improving processes and establishing related performance metrics.

Turnaround time is a key metric, said Andrus, and CDD is in the process of determining other types of measures to put into place. Councilor Ryti recommended that CDD monitor turnaround times through each individual step of the project cycle. Ryti also noted that using the same metrics as used in other communities might provide insight as to

how much easier or more difficult it is to get a project done in Los Alamos as opposed to elsewhere.

Applications for new projects, and lack of progress on existing projects.

Councilor Ryti asked why the County was seeing so few applications for new projects, and why projects were inactive even after having been initiated years ago. He said it was important to understand the reasons, communicate them to the public, and explore how the County could help expedite plans.

County Manager Steve Lynne replied that, being a small town, Los Alamos has challenges that other communities may not. Sometimes the problem is that the same developer is involved in several projects and has shifted his priorities, and such nuances are generally not visible to the public. As one example, Lynne pointed out that, as the owner/developer of two projects in Los Alamos, Jeff Branch and his group decided to focus on building the childcare Montessori facility on Trinity Drive instead of the Arbolada development on North Mesa.

Andrus pointed out that local owner-developers generally do not have the resources needed to carry out multiple projects at the same time. On the other hand, large-scale developers that have lots of resources are not interested in Los Alamos County because the County lacks the large parcels of land they need.

Communication to the public about project status.

Councilors Ryti and Havemann expressed the desire for better communication with the public about the status of projects. While acknowledging that the projects are private entity developments, not County projects, Councilor Havemann said that she wished the public could have more accessible and up-to-date information on the status of projects as well as the obstacles to progress.

CDD staff noted that some information on project status can be found in the County Manager's monthly report and on the County

Projects page of the County's website. Ungerleider said that he is also in the process of developing a business newsletter that could include project status.

Regional development.

Councilor Hand raised a concern that CDD needed additional resources to address gaps that have been identified in various regional plans, such as the Regional Economic Development Inc. plan. "There are a lot of opportunities where LAC could step up and take the lead in getting some of these things moving on behalf of not only Los Alamos County, but also LANL, DOE, all the small businesses, all the workers who need to provide services here in Los Alamos," said Hand. She asked if the County could do that with their current staff.

Andrus replied, "We will have a very compelling conversation about resources that we have. So, may I say, Madame Chair, can we get an Amen for what the Councilor is saying?"

Los Alamos East Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Designation

Ungerleider introduced a proposal to establish a Metropolitan Development Area (MRA) in the eastern portion of the Downtown Los Alamos planning area, an initiative of Los Alamos County and Los Alamos MainStreet.

Details were presented by Amy Bell from Groundwork Studio, a planning and landscaping architecture firm in Albuquerque that is a consultant for New Mexico MainStreet. The proposed MRA incorporates 55 acres comprised of approximately 19 parcels in east downtown Los Alamos, an area that includes the Mari-Mac and Hilltop properties. The bulk of the commercial buildings are vacant.

An MRA designation would provide the County with additional tools to support revitalization of deteriorated or underutilized downtown commercial properties, said Bell. The designation includes a corresponding MRA Plan that outlines redevelopment projects to correct declining conditions and provide

tangible community benefit. Bell said that, once adopted, the MRA Plan enables community-guided public investment in private redevelopment projects that support downtown revitalization and provide public benefits without violating the New Mexico Anti-Donation Clause.

Bell enumerated the tools that an adopted MRA plan could use to help address redevelopment of East Downtown Los Alamos.

Tonight's presentation was intended only to introduce the concepts of the proposal to Council. Several additional steps will be needed to turn the proposal into an executable plan.

- MRA Designation: Public Notice, Council Hearing and Adoption of Resolution (Jan–Feb)
- MRA Plan: Plan development, Public Hearing and Plan adoption (Feb–May)
- Plan Implementation: Create MRA Implementation Committee and fund; partner with appropriate agencies and organizations. Note that projects will be able to proceed only with Council approval.

Council questions

Questions from Council focused on how the boundaries of the proposed MRA were determined and the rationale for including or excluding specific properties.

Ungerleider explained the boundaries shown in the presentation duplicate those in the Downtown Master Plan. However, the Council could amend the boundaries.

Councilors Ryti and Reagor observed that some properties in the proposed MRA were already being fully utilized and asked for examples as to how the MRA might be used to incentivize redevelopment or revitalization of these properties. Bell suggested that types of assistance could take the form of façade improvements, site improvements, or infrastructure improvements. Many businesses and property owners have challenges in covering the costs for those things. Revitalization might take the form of reducing the use of natural gas in a building or

incorporating other green technologies. The MRA tools might be able to keep costs down so that homes and business buildings remain as close to affordable as possible. Consequently, said Bell, businesses often ask to be included within the boundary of a designated MRA because they want to have access to that additional assistance.

Councilor Ryti commented that some development projects within the boundaries of the proposed MRA already appear to have a path forward, such as the Mari-Mac project. He asked why such properties should be included in the MRA. Lynne answered that, in the cases mentioned by Ryti, the paths forward are only possibilities, i.e., there have been promising discussions but there is not an executable lease agreement at this time. It is possible, Lynne said, that a key element might be County participation in those projects. That alone, Lynne felt, was enough reason to have some consideration for having the MRA in these areas. "The whole economic circumstances over the past three years have really gone downhill from a redevelopment perspective," said Lynne.

Local news coverage:

Los Alamos Daily Post, December 7, 2023.
Kirsten Laskey, CDD Updates County Council On Department Projects.

<https://ladailypost.com/cdd-updates-county-council-on-department-projects/>

Los Alamos Daily Post, December 8, 2023,
Video: Council Vice Chair Cull Shares Meeting Highlights.

<https://ladailypost.com/video-council-vice-chair-cull-shares-meeting-highlights/>

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – County Council – December 12, 2023

Animal Control Ordinance, Wildlife Feeding Ordinance, Bear Resistant Roll Carts

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

Animal Control Ordinance

A public hearing was held to consider an Animal Control Ordinance amending Chapter 6, Animals, of the County Code. By a vote of 5–2, with Councilors Havemann and Lepsch in opposition, Council rejected the proposed ordinance as presented. Council directed staff to return to Council with a revised draft that addressed public concerns.

As part of the public outreach for this ordinance, a Town Hall was held November 13, 2023 and public comment was solicited on the County website. Police Chief Dino Sgambellone answered questions from Council, which focused on specific language in the proposal that had drawn extensive comments.

Councilor Ryti asked about the reason for the proposed change regarding excessive animal noise, which would replace the language “continuous disturbance for 10 minutes” with the less specific “unreasonably disrupts the public peace.” Chief Sgambellone replied, “This [barking dogs] is a common complaint and the current language makes it difficult, if not impossible, to enforce. Most dogs don’t bark continuously for 10 minutes and it is difficult to gather the evidence needed.”

Councilor Ryti also asked about the language that specified a minimum of five days before an animal received by the shelter could be euthanized. The Chief replied that,

although euthanizing rarely happens, this provision would allow Animal Control to end the suffering of a sick or diseased animal at the shelter if it was a surrender or if the owner could not be located. He also explained that the proposed code would allow the shelter to turn away any animal brought in that needed extensive medical care or if a person wished to surrender an unreasonable number of dogs. “We need to protect the animals that are in our care,” he said.

Councilor Hand noted that the public comments had been available to staff for only a few days and that none of the comments had been addressed in the proposed ordinance. “I believe we are a little bit premature on approving this tonight,” Hand said. She suggested tabling it and returning to it after time for consideration of the comments.

Councilor Cull said, “I’ve heard several times, ‘I know that’s what it says, but that’s not what we do.’ I don’t understand why we would write into an ordinance something that isn’t really our practice... Things like that will keep me from voting for this ordinance.” Councilor Reagor moved to reject the proposed ordinance as presented. Councilor Ryti suggested a friendly amendment to Reagor’s motion directing staff to provide the responses to questions and comments from the public and to clarify where changes are proposed.

However, Councilor Reagor indicated he would not accept Ryti’s friendly amendment. By a vote of 5–2, Council passed the motion to reject the ordinance, with Councilors Havemann and Lepsch in opposition.

Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

Council unanimously approved a motion to direct the County Manager to move ahead with wildlife education in a manner similar to the proposed draft wildlife education plan and to take no further action at this time on the draft Wildlife Feeding Ordinance.

This item was originally brought to Council as a request to discuss the problems of community members feeding deer and other wildlife. A presentation by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMG&F)

described the problems associated with feeding wildlife and emphasized their level of effort to address citizen complaints and wildlife issues in Los Alamos. [See observer report for Council Work Session on 5/16/23, June LWVLA Update.]

Subsequently, a Wildlife Feeding Ordinance was drafted, two town halls were held, and public comment was solicited. After reviewing the considerable public feedback, Council opted to hold a discussion—in lieu of a public hearing—on the draft ordinance.

Public feedback centered on objections to limitations on feeding birds, particularly ground-feeding species and waterfowl at Ashley Pond, and the prohibition on purposely feeding deer. Councilor Ryti noted that originally the proposal followed a request by the NMG&F for local assistance with dealing with wildlife problems associated with residents feeding deer. He suggested that much of the draft ordinance went well beyond the original scope, and that most of the public objections stemmed from the expanded scope.

Councilors expressed strong support for the draft 2024 Wildlife Education Plan included in the agenda package. There was general consensus that any future ordinance should exclude references to bird feeding. Councilor Havemann said that as she read the comments she saw support for a more limited ordinance that prohibited feeding deer, but she was willing to begin with just an education campaign.

Several councilors pointed out the need for performance metrics to monitor the effectiveness of the education campaign. Councilor Cull also noted the need for data on the extent to which an excessive level of wildlife feeding is going on, i.e., whether the practice is pervasive throughout the community, or is limited to only a few residents.

Bear-Resistant Roll Carts

By unanimous vote, Council approved a continuation of the distribution of bear-resistant roll carts free-of-charge to residents upon request. Council also directed staff to revisit the program within a year.

Deputy Public Works Director Eric Martinez and Solid Waste Manager Armando Gabaldon summarized the County's bear-resistant roll cart program. Council had allocated \$2.4M to purchase and distribute the roll carts to residents, and more than 1,000 roll carts and 260 dumpsters have been deployed. Customer satisfaction with the program is high and there is currently a waiting list of 450 residents for additional carts.

However, Gabaldon reported that there has been a significant increase in route service times because of cart lock malfunctions, with operators requiring two to three attempts to dump a cart or being required to exit the truck and manually open the roll cart to dump it. "About 30 to 40 percent of the carts require manual opening," Gabaldon said. Staff found that the locking mechanism on the carts is easily clogged with dirt and debris, preventing proper disengagement during the dumping process.

The roll cart manufacturer is working on a third-generation design for the locking mechanism, said Martinez, and staff is exploring other designs from other manufacturers to find a design that works consistently. "Until we find a design that works for us, we are not distributing new carts and we have put a freeze on the waiting list," Martinez said. "We expect to have testing and procurement of a new design completed by spring 2024."

Council was universal in its support of the program, but Councilors Ryti and Cull discussed the merits of deploying a cart to all residents. After some discussion, all councilors agreed to continue the program on a by-request basis until a fully functioning roll cart was available, and then to revisit the program to possibly include a broader deployment.

Local news coverage:

Los Alamos Daily Post, December 14, 2023, Video: Council Chair Derkacs Recaps Dec. 12 Meeting.

<https://ladailypost.com/video-council-chair-denise-derkacs-recaps-dec-12-meeting/>

Los Alamos Daily Post, December 14, 2023, Kirsten Laskey, County Council Strikes Down Two Animal Ordinances.

<https://ladailypost.com/county-council-strikes-down-two-animal-ordinances/>

Santa Fe New Mexican, December 15, 2023, Nicholas Gilmore, Los Alamos rejects wildlife feeding ban after pushback.

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/los-alamos-rejects-wildlife-feeding-ban-after-pushback/article_a9b28dae-97ad-11ee-86bc-f76784bbe37d.html

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

December Dinner with a Leader: County Manager Steve Lynne

Steve Lynne has worked for Los Alamos County since February 5, 1996. Speaking to League members last month, he said that he was becoming reflective as his time with the County draws to a close. In the beginning Los Alamos County was just one of his audit clients, but he agreed to join the staff because of the people he met. He began working on the budget, then became the Chief Financial Officer, then Deputy Manager, and finally the County Manager. He said he was willing to take on that position because of the opportunity “to hire great people,” which is also why he feels comfortable retiring. He informed his audience that Anne Laurent had just been selected to be his successor. He said, “She has proven over her career how capable she is.”

Looking back over the history of the County, Lynne remarked on how much our community has been shaped by clubs, including those that ran the ski area, the stables, and the ice rink. Of course, much of the original infrastructure was built by the Army. For many years our local government did not have the funds to maintain or replace those facilities. When he began, the Department of Energy made annual assistance payments. Those funds comprised only 15% of our revenue. The assistance payments were then discontinued, but when the contract to manage the Laboratory was awarded to a for-profit coalition, they were required to pay gross receipts tax, and the revenue ballooned.



2023 Strategic Leadership Plan

Lynne said he learned about disaster management from his experience during the Cerro Grande Fire and later when he served as the authorized agent administering the County's claim for over \$120 million. He worked on goal statements based on community input for the Comprehensive Plan and the teamwork effort to achieve more effective strategic planning.

Over the last 25 years the County's Capital Improvement Program has resulted in construction projects including Ashley Pond, the Nature Center, and the Leisure Lagoon. One project whose success is debatable is the Trinity Site Redevelopment. Lynn thinks it was a success – the Smith's Marketplace has provided an anchor and got rid of blight.

As a one-horse town, the County must plan for the ups and downs of the Laboratory, which is currently growing by leaps and bounds, resulting in housing, traffic, and labor challenges for the County. Lynne said that regional partnerships are important, but he also listed the many housing developments underway in the County, including The Bluffs on DP Road, The Hills Apartments at the former LASO site; the Arboleda housing development on North Mesa, Cañada Bonita on Canyon Road, Homes at North Community, Mirador mixed use, and Mari-Mac housing and retail.

Lynne is especially pleased with the County's improvement in strategic planning, which is more comprehensive than in the past. Of particular interest to the League, he commented that he is very encouraged about the likelihood of getting a contract in place for community broadband.

Lynne concluded by saying that he and his wife have no plans to leave town. He looks forward to having time to get more involved in the community after taking a break.

Barbara Calef

Council Selects Anne Laurent as New County Manager

At a special meeting on December 15, 2023, Council voted unanimously to appoint Deputy County Manager Anne Laurent as County Manager effective March 3, 2024. Laurent will take over for current County Manager Steve Lynne, who is retiring from community service after 28 years with Los Alamos County. Laurent was selected following a nationwide search that produced 30 applicants of whom 14 met the minimum requirements. Interviews with Council and a Community Panel were held after narrowing the field to three candidates, one of whom dropped out.

Laurent has 11 years' experience in Los Alamos County government, along with four years in Park City, Utah. Council cited her extensive experience in managing multiple county departments, her project management skills, and her strong interpersonal skills as factors in her selection.

June Fabryka-Martin

Local news coverage

Los Alamos County Press Release, December 15, 2023, Council approves Anne Laurent for new County Manager effective 3/3/24

<https://www.losalamosnm.us/News-articles/Council-approves-Anne-Laurent-for-new-County-Manager>

Los Alamos Daily Post, December 15, 2023, Kirsten Laskey, Council Appoints Anne Laurent County Manager

<https://ladailypost.com/council-unanimously-appoints-anne-laurent-county-manager/>

Los Alamos Reporter, December 19, 2023, Maire O'Neill, Los Alamos County Council Votes Unanimously to Appoint Anne Laurent As Next County Manager.

<https://losalamosreporter.com/2023/12/19/los-alamos-county-council-votes-unanimously-to-appoint-anne-laurent-as-next-county-manager/>

Tickler Report – Tentative Council Agenda Items

Tickler Report

Tentative Council Agenda Items as of December 12, 2023

This is a partial list of tentative Council agenda items that was distributed with the Council's agenda package for its November 28, 2023 session. All of the items are subject to change.

- Regional Planning effort
 - Briefing at 1/9/24 meeting
- Budget Guidance
 - Discussion at 1/9/24 meeting
- Action Plans for LARES Council Working Group
 - Discussion and possible action at 1/9/24 meeting
- Espanola's Request for Regional Capital Funds
 - Presentation and possible action at 1/9/24 meeting
- State of the County Presentation
 - Presentation at 1/9/24 meeting
- Resolution of Support for a Bee City Certification
 - Action requested at 1/9/24 meeting

Tickler Report – County BCC Vacancies

County BCC Vacancies as of December 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 and current vacancies are below as of November 30, 2023.

Upcoming vacancies are in **yellow** text. Changes from last report have a **magenta** highlight.

• Art in Public Places Board	1*
◦ 2 terms ending Mar 24, 2024	
• Board of Public Utilities	1
◦ No terms ending soon	
• County Health Council	2*
◦ 5 terms ending Jan 6, 2024	
• Environmental Sustainability Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Historic Preservation Advisory Board	2
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Labor Management Relations Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Library Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Parks and Recreation Board	3
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Personnel Board	1
◦ 1 term ending Mar 31, 2024	
• Planning and Zoning Commission	0
◦ 3 terms ending Mar 31, 2024	
• Transportation Board	0
◦ 3 terms ending Feb 28, 2024	

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

* The Los Alamos County Code stipulates that "No board or commission shall have more than a simple majority of members registered in the same political party." Consequently, registered Democrats are ineligible for these vacancies. (Note: this qualification does not apply to the Board of Public Utilities.)

LWVLA Board of Directors 2023-2024



The new League board after our first in-person meeting, left to right: Rebecca Chaiken, Amy Birnbaum, Jean Dewart, Akkana Peck, Barbara Calef, Felicia Orth, Addie Jacobson, Lynn Jones, Ellen Mills, Becky Shankland, Karyl Ann Armbruster, Jody Benson. Missing from photo: Bob Williams. Photo by Susanna Marshland.

Officers:

- President: Felicia Orth
- 1st Vice-President: [open]
- 2nd Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- Past President: Barbara Calef
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken
- Treasurer: Addie Jacobson

Directors:

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

Off-board Directors:

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

_____ ZIP: _____

Phone 1: _____ E-mail 1: _____

Phone 2: _____ E-mail 2: _____

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 Single Sustaining or Household Sustaining 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: \$ _____

_____ **Newsletter Update** – Check here to receive it 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)

Name1 Name2

_____ _____ Voter Registration 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: assist in inviting leaders to give presentations; order/deliver lunches when we meet in person, help set up tables, etc.

_____ _____ 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.

_____ _____ Other: _____

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