

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> 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](http://www.LWVLosAlamos.org)  
Volume 76, Number 10, February 2024

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## Calendar

February 8	Developing Primary Voter Guide Questions, see article
February 15	Lunch with a Leader, Unitarian Church, JJAB Exec. Dir. Rachel Mohr-Richards, noon
February 22	Board Meeting, Unitarian Church, noon
February 26	Fund Drive Meeting, 1577 Camino Medio, North Mesa, 5:30 p.m.

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## February Lunch with a Leader: JJAB's Rachel Mohr-Richards

Lunch with a Leader will be on February 15 at the Unitarian Church from noon until 1 p.m. Our leader will be Rachel Mohr-Richards, the Executive Director of JJAB (Juvenile Justice Advisory Board). JJAB is a nonprofit organization that funds 15 programs for youth and their families in Los Alamos.

Rachel Mohr-Richards was born and raised in Jackson, Michigan. She and her family moved to New Mexico in 2014. Prior to joining JJAB, she worked in the state child welfare systems in Michigan and New Mexico for eight years. She held positions as a Children's Protective Services Investigator, Placement Worker, and Placement Supervisor. Her last position, at the Children Youth and Families Department, was as a Child Placement Agency Specialist, where she licensed all the treatment foster care agencies and community homes in the state of New Mexico.

Mohr-Richards joined JJAB in 2020 as a Resource Specialist and became the first ever Resource Specialist Program Manager in 2021. She became Executive Director in January 2023 and has facilitated providing programs to the children, youth, and families of Los Alamos, which is JJAB's mission. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys traveling, reading mystery novels, teaching Pilates and spending time with her family.



*Rachel Mohr-Richards,  
Executive Director of JJAB  
(stock photo)*

*Karyl Ann Armbruster*

## ***Developing Questions for the June 2024 Primary Voter Guide***

As you know, the League prepares and distributes a Voter Guide for elections. The Voter Guide presents the timelines for voting and the candidates and ballot initiatives that are on the ballot. Our local League is responsible for preparing and distributing questions for the candidates to answer – and their answers are presented in the Voter Guide. Our Los Alamos League is responsible for publishing a printed copy of the Voter Guide and posting this information to Vote411 on the internet.

To include more members of the Los Alamos League of Women Voters, we invite members to participate in developing questions for the candidates. The June 2024 primary ballot includes the following offices:

- Los Alamos County Council (3 positions)
- Los Alamos County Clerk
- State Senator District 5
- State Senator District 6
- State Representative District 43

We will develop four questions for each office. The ballot also includes District Attorney for the First Judicial District and Public Education Commission District 4. We can develop questions for those offices and present them as suggestions to the LWVNM Voter Guide Committee.

Participants will be asked to read materials related to the offices, and, possibly, to interview knowledgeable people. Also, the League has guidelines for how to ask unbiased questions.

We will have a kick-off meeting on Thursday, February 8 to begin the process of developing questions for the Voter Guide. We will submit our recommendations to the Los Alamos League of Women Voters Board on Thursday, March 14 for their final decisions on March 18.

If you would like to participate, email Jean Dewart at [jeandewart7@gmail.com](mailto:jeandewart7@gmail.com). It is possible that the newsletter is reaching you after the kickoff on February 8 – but, if you are interested – please contact Jean and we will add your name to our roster!

*Jean Dewart*

## ***President's Message: Opportunities To Get Involved***

It goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway) that 2024 will be an important year for voting and for the voter education provided by the League of Women Voters. At the local level, although we remained active throughout the pandemic, we have recently stepped up our efforts to renew and strengthen personal connections. This includes an autumn in-person candidate forum, monthly in-person Lunch with a Leader meetings, an in-person social membership event, and other in-person get-togethers related to programs and fundraising.

With an eye to the value of such gatherings, and to community events that facilitate in-person meetings, the Board decided in January to join the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce as a non-profit member. The Chamber, led by the energetic and gracious Ryn Hermann, will enhance our visibility in the community through the weekly emails that include news of community and Chamber member events, and through the events themselves.

Some of these events resemble our own: on February 29, for example, the Chamber will host a legislative update at SALA with Senator Jaramillo and Representative Chandler. (If you are interested in attending, please email me; pre-registration is required.) Other events gather Los Alamos' most treasured community-oriented organizations for ChamberFest, ScienceFest, the Fair

and Rodeo parade, Trick or Treat on Mainstreet, and WinterFest, among others. Look for the Chamber booth and come say hi!

In addition to this action, the Board is working on the human and financial resources necessary to produce the next Voter Guide and to be the non-partisan resource you know us to be for candidate and election information.

*Felicia Orth*

## ***Fundraising Committee Meets to Discuss New Strategies***

The Fundraising Committee met with Beverly Post on January 19 to learn more about how to effectively engage in fundraising activities. We learned many valuable ways to raise money, and the evening was very productive. The League's largest financial commitment at this time is funding the Voter Guide and providing it to every household as well as to the libraries and vote centers.

The meeting recommended raising awareness of League of Women Voters activities and mission with letters to the editor and opinion pieces. These should include a link to a League webpage with a "donate button" in every press release.

Building relationships with donors and potential donors is critical for effective fundraising efforts. Always writing a thank you note to a donor, inviting individuals for coffee and making the donation ask, small house parties inviting donors to consider a larger donation and encouraging them by matching their contributions are some of the ideas Post presented. Other "matching" grants could be developed to encourage larger donations.

Voter registration, an ongoing effort of the League, should also include having a brochure available that encourages joining the League. Post recommended continuing an annual letter campaign that specifically asks for donations to finance the Voter Guide, as well as a donation box at every League-sponsored event.

Post told the committee that the State Records Center and Archives has a foundation directory that can be accessed to research potential grants.



*Fundraising Committee members from left to right are Karyl Ann Armbruster, Felicia Orth, Jody Benson, facilitator Beverly Post, Ellen Mills, and Leslie Wallstrom. Photo by Alex Mills*

*Ellen Mills*

## ***LWVLA Fund Drive Party February 26***

All League members are invited to participate in the Fund Drive Party beginning at 5:30 on Monday, February 26 at the home of Ellen Mills (1577 Camino Medio). We will have a potluck supper and then stuff envelopes with a copy of a letter for donations to our organization. This is an opportunity to catch up on local news and get to know our fellow League members.



## ***Legislative Reception Features Talk by Attorney General Raúl Torrez***

As a warm-up for the LWVNM's annual League Day at the Legislature, League members from around the state were treated to an evening reception with several legislators and an outstanding talk by Attorney General Raúl Torrez.

Torrez began by announcing the recent change in the title of his office: it will now be the Department of Justice, if the enabling legislation passes.

He continued by describing his strong family ties with New Mexico; his father was the longest-serving prosecutor in the state of New Mexico and his mother was a school teacher. He feels a passion for preventing the tragedies of addiction and abuse that show up so often in the courtroom and the schoolroom.

In talking of his admiration for Abraham Lincoln, he reflected on the need to deal with political disagreements in a respectful way. Whatever the quarrel and no matter how deeply felt, the democratic process, rule of law, and respect for the constitution must take precedence in resolving issues. Torrez was clearly thinking of today's damaging political hostilities.

Current issues that Torrez is pursuing are numerous. He has filed a lawsuit against Meta Platforms to protect children from sexual abuse and online solicitation. He has created a first-ever task force in his office focused on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. He sees the need to establish appropriate criminal interventions depending on where on a continuum an offender may be and whether violence is involved.

Then he turned to the critical topic of the dysfunction in the CYFD (Children, Youth, and Families Department). First, as one concerned with law enforcement, he sees that this dysfunction is directly contributing to crime. CYFD needs to intervene in the adverse childhood experiences that are at the bottom of the continuum that turns children into criminals.

Finally, Torrez tackled the difficult topic of immigration. He urged us to recognize that we all came from somewhere else. We should admire immigrants' desire to improve their lives and come up with a logical, humane way to address the problem of having so many wishing to enter the country. Certainly, we need more immigration judges, and we need some way to address the many who have an urgent need to seek asylum from intolerable conditions in their home countries.



*Attorney General Raúl Torrez speaks at the LWVNM Legislative Reception. Photo by Becky Shankland*

*Becky Shankland*

# **Observer Corps Report – County Council – January 9, 2024**

## *Election of Chair and Vice Chair, Bee City Certification, Standard for Public Notice, Approval of the LARES Action Plan*

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

### **Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair**

By votes of 6–0, Council re-elected Chair Derkacs and Vice Chair Cull to serve in the same roles for a second term ending December 31, 2024.

### **Resolution of Support for Bee City Certification**

By a vote of 6–0, Council approved a resolution for Los Alamos County to proceed with the certification process to become a Bee City. Through the encouragement of community members and with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board, this resolution supports the certification of Los Alamos as a Bee City with Bee City USA.

The purpose of Bee City is to provide support for establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and to enhance biological diversity in communities. The Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) will host and facilitate the program, which will be directed by a citizen committee. A representative from the County will serve on the committee. Council questions clarified that the impact on County resources and staff will be minimal.

### **Minimum Standard for Public Notice of Meetings of Council and County Boards and Commissions**

By a vote of 6–0, Council adopted a resolution to establish minimum standards for the public notice of meetings. A similar resolution is voted on every year. Under the Open Meetings Act, the requirements are for 72-hour notice, but the County publishes 96 hours in advance.

Council engaged in considerable discussion about the timing of its yearly Strategic Planning Session. The original proposal was to hold the next meeting in January 2025 to allow newly elected councilors to participate. Most councilors felt that a November planning session allowed staff more time to prepare a budget that met Council's current goals and to allow better coordination with Boards and Commissions. The November date was included in the final resolution to adopt the meeting calendar for 2024.

### **LARES Council Working Group Recommendation Action Plan**

By a vote of 5–1, with Councilor Reagor in opposition, Council approved the Los Alamos Resilience, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) Working Group's interim recommendation to boost climate action in the community by beginning implementation of the previously approved goals while awaiting completion of the full Climate Action Plan, due in October 2024. The Working Group was composed of three councilors, Department of Public Utilities Board members, and County staff. [The previously approved goals were listed in our observer report for Council's 11/14/2023 meeting; see the *Update* of December 2023].

County Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule explained that the objectives of the Working Group's discussions were "to define achievable actions, identify resource needs, address potential concerns, and develop practical solutions." The group identified actions based on two distinct time frames: quick wins achievable within six months, and longer-term initiatives requiring more extensive

effort. Gurule explained that many of the action items will require investment; they will be presented as budget options during the upcoming FY 25 budget process.

Councilor Reagor commented, "Most of the recommendations I find [to be] very reasonable things, especially a lot of education programs. I'm having a little problem with recommendation number five, which is the natural gas cutoff." His concern was that contractors would not be interested in building new homes in Los Alamos if natural gas appliances could not be used.

Gurule replied to Councilor Reagor's comment, "We recognize that there have been recent federal cases that have determined local governments are prohibited from banning new natural gas hookups." She added that the County could look at ways other communities have promoted energy efficiency without banning natural gas hookups.

Based on Gurule's response, Councilor Reagor expanded on the basis for his objection. "If it's not even legal," he argued, "why is it even still there?" Gurule replied that it would be up to the discretion of Council whether to keep it.

During public comment, Robert Gibson addressed the natural gas proposal. "As I read it, there is no action proposed, it's a matter of studying the issue so that we know what the legal environment would be and we know what other communities are doing. ...You are just studying here and getting more information so that if and when a decision needs to be made, you'll have the information to do it instead of starting from scratch at that time. The point of this is to get going and do something."

During councilor comments, Councilor Havemann said, "We need to get hustling on this, this has been a strategic goal for a long time...I'm looking forward to getting jump started so that we can make progress before receiving the final climate action plan."

## Local news coverage:

*Los Alamos Daily Post*, January 11, 2024, Kirsten Laskey, Council Moves to Make Los

Alamos Part of Bee City USA.

<https://ladailypost.com/council-moves-to-make-los-alamos-part-of-bee-city-usa/>

*June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin*

## Observer Corps Report – County Council – January 23, 2024

### *Budget Guidance, Federal Priorities*

The work 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.

### **FY2025 Budget Guidance**

Voting 6–1, with Councilor Reagor in dissent, Council endorsed the budget guidance presented by County staff as the basis for developing the County's FY25 budget plan, modified to delay the effective date of a proposed 1/4 cent Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) incremental increase. The budget guidance as presented had proposed a start date of January 1, 2025 for this GRT increment, but Council endorsed budget guidance that delayed the GRT increase until FY27.

County Manager Steven Lynne emphasized that the sole purpose of the endorsement is to provide the staff with a basis for preparing the budget projections that will be brought to Council for the budget hearing in April.

### *Guidance for budget development and capital project financing*

Manager Lynne and Administrative Services Director Helen Perraglio provided an overview of the proposed budget guidance. The goal was to seek preliminary guidance



from Council for developing the budget to be presented at the budget hearing.

For the FY25 operational budget, the proposed guidance for department heads was a targeted 4% overall increase for departmental costs. Department heads were also directed to limit any requests for project funds to those considered to be absolutely necessary, taking into consideration the magnitude of unspent funds, carryovers, and encumbrances that currently exist.

Lynne and Perraglio provided an updated ten-year financial projection model. It is similar to last year's model, with two exceptions, said Lynne. One difference is that incoming GRT revenue is higher than was projected during last year's budget development and hearings, although the model's assumptions about a significant decline in that revenue stream after FY27 remain unchanged. This decrease in GRT revenue is expected to start once LANL shifts its operations to pit manufacturing and takes the GRT deduction allowed by the State for manufacturing.

The other change is that the projection model proposes a different debt strategy for financing capital projects. The debts are of the same magnitude as previously presented, said Lynne, but a different mechanism is being proposed to finance them. The proposed debt strategy has two components:

- a single GRT-based debt issuance to support the County's capital plan, which includes the Community Broadband Network, and
- a new 1/4 cent GRT increment to offset the long-term decrease in GRT revenue.

The increment would become effective on January 1, 2025, and be used for debt service payments, not only on the new debt issuance, but also on other debt service payments associated with specific capital projects. Perraglio said that the increment would allow the County to sustain its recurring operations and provide funds to continue funding capital projects using the County's cash reserves.

Without the increment, said Perraglio, the County would probably have to take on more debt in order to complete its capital projects.

However, if the County has the capacity to pay for those projects using its cash reserves, she said, it saves long-term costs "and future taxpayers will pay less because they don't have to have a huge bill of debt and interest that they've got to pay." She compared the choice to a decision as to whether to take on a 30-year or a 15-year mortgage.

Lynne noted that a legislative bill has been introduced that would remove the manufacturing GRT exemption (House Bill 117, National Lab Contractor Gross Receipts, introduced 1/12/24). "If that bill passes," he said, "then we'll have a very different discussion later on."

### *Council discussion of budget guidance*

Council's concerns focused on the timing and necessity of the proposed 1/4 cent incremental increase in GRT that would start January 1, 2025. The Councilors agreed that there was no compelling need for including a GRT increment so early in the budget plan process and, in any case, they wanted County staff to evaluate alternative ways to reduce the need for a GRT increment. Some of the scenarios suggested were:

- revisit some of the big expenditure projects and consider postponing, revising, or downsizing some of them;
- wait to see what the bids look like on broadband improvements and other projects;
- shift some of the costs of the Community Broadband Network to user fees; and
- cut back costs in other areas to cover any shortfalls.

Councilor Reagor felt that the County would never need the 1/4 cent increment. "There are some things maybe we don't need to do as fast... So, I think we're in fine financial shape... I can't support this motion with this budget projection."

Councilor Havemann did not agree that the County should postpone work on the capital projects, but said, "I think it's our obligation to do those in a fiscally responsible manner and try to make investments in our community for

the future generations. That said, I'm still not quite seeing the compelling reason to do this sooner versus in a year or two, when we have even better and more timely information."

Councilor Cull added, "I would propose, for planning purposes, going without that proposed increase and considering possible ways to cut the budget in other areas in order to continue to maintain a good financial projection."

Before a final motion was presented for Council vote, Lynne emphasized that a decision to endorse the inclusion of a GRT incremental increase in the County's projected budget was not a commitment to approve either the GRT or the budget. However, it does have an impact on the County's bond rating, he said. [The bond rating affects the amount of interest that the borrower pays on issued debt.] "So, the assumptions that you approve for that are important," said Lynne.

#### *Motion to approve budget guidance*

The final motion, as revised, was proposed by Councilor Lepsch and seconded by Councilor Cull: "I move that Council endorse the FY25 budget guidance, with the change of delaying a quarter-percent GRT increase until FY2027." This revised motion passed 6–1, with Councilor Reagor in dissent.

## **2024 Los Alamos County Federal Priorities**

Council unanimously supported the list of federal priorities developed by the Council Working Group, which consisted of Chair Derkacs, Vice Chair Cull, Councilor Ryti and Danielle Duran, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager.

Chair Derkacs said, "These are the talking points that we use for our annual visit to Washington, DC, when we meet with our Congressional representatives, with NNSA [National Nuclear Security Administration], EM [Office of Environmental Management], and some other government bodies." Councilor Ryti emphasized that, "It's really important to have these succinct, direct requests for our meetings."

The following are Los Alamos County's federal priorities for 2024 (FY2025)

- Fund and support LANL missions for national defense, environmental cleanup and the health and safety of the community. Environmental cleanup activities of greatest concern are (a) clearing residual contamination from Rendija Canyon before transferring the land to the County; (b) acquiring information needed to make a decision about potentially transferring the MDA-T parcel to the County, (c) accelerating the cleanup of the Chromium Plume, and (d) accelerating shipments of transuranic (TRU) waste from LANL to WIPP.
- Pass a new land transfer law in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for housing and sustainable development in the County to support the NNSA Mission and the citizens of Los Alamos County. Most land transfers have occurred only through Congressional action, and the last land transfer legislation became law over 25 years ago.
- Secure funding for the County from the relevant agencies and programs to support infrastructure projects that serve the County and Northern New Mexico.
- Pass the amendment to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to extend it and expand its eligibility to include downwinders in other states impacted by above-ground nuclear testing as well as specific workers in uranium mine operations.
- Create a DOE Community Infrastructure Grant Program based on the successful Department of Defense (DOD) Community Infrastructure Pilot Program under the NDAA. DOE has facilities in at least 39 states, affecting hundreds of cities and counties across the country. In New Mexico, this program could assist communities around Sandia, LANL, and WIPP.

*June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin*



# **Observer Corps Report – County Council – January 30, 2024**

## *Support for Paid Family Medical Leave, BPU Appointment, Modifying Downtown LA Boundaries*

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

### **Public Hearing: Resolution of Support for Paid Family Medical Leave**

By a vote of 6–1, with Councilor Reagor in opposition, Council adopted a resolution of support for a bill before the current legislature to establish a fund that would provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave for New Mexicans in need of time off to assist with major family medical issues.

Several councilors expressed that their support for the resolution was based on personal experience with the difficulties in caring for a family member while trying to maintain employment. Councilor Reagor presented an opposing view. “I’m opposed to this law as just another of the endless burdens on small businesses. It is inappropriate for the Council to support this.”

### **Appointment to the Board of Public Utilities**

In a split vote, Council selected Matt Heavner to serve out the partial term on the Board of Public Utilities created by the resignation of Cornell Wright. Heavner's term extends from February 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

## **Modifying Downtown Los Alamos (DT-LA) Zoning District Boundaries**

By a vote of 7–0, Council instructed staff to evaluate the possibility of modifying the boundaries of the DT-LA Zoning District so as to include several parcels that are currently outside the Downtown District.

The specific parcels in question are the Knights of Columbus and commercial properties north and south of the intersection of Trinity and DP Road, and the parcel now occupied by the SALA Event Center and several professional services offices (the Mary Deal Building) at the western end of Downtown, between Central Avenue and Trinity Drive. These parcels are currently zoned GC (General Commercial).

Community Development Director Paul Andrus explained that rezoning these parcels could be beneficial to the property owners because the GC zoning is restricted to commercial uses, whereas the DT District permits a mix of uses, including residential. Andrus said, generally speaking, zoning that allows mixed uses gives the owner more flexibility in deciding how to develop or redevelop a property. “Tonight’s vote would instruct staff to do some analysis as to the appropriateness, how it meets code and the Comprehensive Plan,” said Andrus. “Then the County Manager would make an application for these areas to be taken to Planning and Zoning for recommendation.”

Chair Derkacs added, and other councilors concurred, that Council’s instructions were not intended to limit the evaluation to the three specific parcels discussed at the Council meeting and that other parcels could be included in the evaluation, as appropriate.

*June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin*

## ***January Lunch with a Leader: Deputy DPU Manager Clay Moseley***

Deputy DPU Manager Clay Moseley began his talk by observing that the County Charter created an independent Department of Public Utilities (DPU) in order to avoid partisan interference. However, the Board of Public Utilities, which is appointed by the County Council, has oversight of the DPU. Furthermore, the DPU must follow County procedure for personnel, pay structure, and procurement rules. The Charter calls for the DPU to pay the equivalent of a franchise fee to the County, but the Council returns it to the DPU to be invested in infrastructure.

Moseley remarked that “the human population is nearing a tipping point for the resources on earth.” The human impact is magnified on the Pajarito Plateau because water must be pumped through miles of water lines to span the distance from the wells to homes and businesses. We have a larger footprint just by living up here.

Many of his remarks concerned the dilemma we face because our attempts to conserve energy and reduce water consumption have a negative effect on utility income. This is a problem facing the utilities industry across the country; the more users conserve, the less income the utilities have.

There is also an effort to move away from the use of natural gas, “but the DPU must continue to invest in the infrastructure as if we’re going to keep it forever.” Who will pay for the transition and for upgrades to the power structure? The cost is outpacing normal inflation. At present, Moseley said, we have a pretty reliable power grid, well above the national average. However, we need to explore new ways of funding because the current system is unsustainable.

Moseley went on to speak about the County’s water infrastructure, which has challenges parallel to those of the electrical system. In 1999 LANL transferred the water system to Los Alamos County, which has operated and maintained it since then. The system includes 13 production wells, only one of which was drilled since the County took ownership. Some of those in production date from the 1960s. When necessary, the pumps can be lowered in the existing wells. Saying each well is unique, Moseley described some of their characteristics, commenting that the Guaje wells are temperamental; they don’t recharge as fast as the Pajarito wells.

Maintaining the water infrastructure is costly. The components (motors, booster stations, etc.) have a functional life, so the DPU must plan accordingly. In Los Alamos the infrastructure is complex due to the topography and peculiarities in the installation. For instance, there are old water lines running under Central Park Square, Fuller Lodge, and Bathtub Row that will soon need replacement, but they have no valves!

Moseley listed other infrastructure issues in the County. One major problem is underground corrosion from intrusion of salty ice melt water, which “eats up” uncoated bolts, pipes, concrete, and asphalt. The source of the salt is magnesium chloride spread on the roads by Public Works to melt snow. Another issue is that there is no place for water hammer in the system to dissipate. In addition, the DPU software needs to be upgraded.

Some League members were concerned about the effect of the recent growth in population on our water supply. Moseley said that we know from deep well transducers that the average depletion



*Deputy DPU Manager Clay Moseley at LWL.  
Photo by Becky Shankland*

of our aquifer is 6" per year. At that rate, it will be 70-80 years before we have a shortage. However, the DPU has embarked on an initiative to conserve water. We are starting to realize a significant reduction in consumption per person, but that creates another problem. The DPU must still finance maintenance of the infrastructure. If the cost is based on consumption, the revenue will be inadequate.

Moseley said "We must get creative." He applies to the state and federal governments for grants and said the NM Environment Department is very pro-active, so the DPU seeks program funds there for water projects. But to avoid raising rates, the solution is more individual water-wise customer accounts; more infill, more high-density housing (not expansion). The more such accounts we have, the less the rates will need to be increased.

*Barbara Calef*

## **LWVLA Board of Directors 2023-2024**

### **Officers:**

- President: Felicia Orth
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: [open]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



## Tickler Report – Tentative Council Agenda Items

### Tickler Report

#### Tentative Council Agenda Items as of January 29, 2024

This is a partial list of tentative Council agenda items that was distributed with the Council's agenda package for its January 29, 2024 session. All of the items are subject to change.

- Food waste composting at the Eco Station using aerated static piles
  - Discussion and possible action at 2/6/24 meeting
- Sale and development of property at 110 Entrada
  - Introduction of Ordinance at 2/6/24 meeting
- Public Hearing on minimum wage ordinance
  - Action requested at 2/6/24 meeting
- Transportation Board presentation
  - Presentation at 2/20/24 meeting
- Council Strategic Priority--Quality of Life
  - Presentation at 2/20/24 meeting
- Market Study with Proposed Implementation
  - Presentation and possible action at 2/27/24 meeting
- Regional planning effort
  - Discussion and possible action at 2/27/24 meeting
- Foxtail Flats Solar Purchase Power Agreement
  - Discussion and action at 2/27/24 meeting
- Regional planning effort
  - Discussion and possible action at 2/27/24 meeting

## Tickler Report – County BCC Vacancies

### County BCC Vacancies

#### as of January 31, 2024

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 January 31, 2024.

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            | 0  |
| ◦ No terms ending soon                 |    |
| • County Health Council                | 7* |
| ◦ No terms ending soon                 |    |
| • 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           | 2  |
| ◦ No terms ending soon                 |    |
| • Personnel Board                      | 1  |
| ◦ 1 term ending Mar 31, 2024           |    |
| • Planning and Zoning Commission       | 0  |
| ◦ 2 terms ending Mar 31, 2024          |    |
| • Transportation Board                 | 0  |
| ◦ 3 terms ending Feb 28, 2024          |    |

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](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.)



## 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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