

UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
P.O. Box 158, Los Alamos, NM 87544
<https://my.lwv.org/new-mexico/los-alamos>
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CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING *April 18, 2024*

Calendar

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| April 18 | Lunch with a Leader, Unitarian Church, Fellowship Hall, 1738 North Sage Loop, noon, Rachel Mohr-Richards, JJAB |
| April 18 | LWVLA Annual Meeting , Unitarian Church, 1-2:30 p.m. |
| April 25 | Board Meeting, Unitarian Church, noon |
| April 27 | LWVNM Council , Zoom, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. |

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

Lunch with a Leader will be on April 18 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.



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

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.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

President's Message: The Measurement of an Electoral System

In 2009 legal scholar Heather K. Gerken, now Dean of Yale Law School, published "The Democracy Index," in which she proposed ways to measure the performance of state and local election systems to identify potential improvements and chart progress. Inspired by that book, the Pew Charitable Trusts, a nonpartisan organization that uses data to advance the public interest, established the Elections Performance Index (EPI) in 2013. The Election Data and Science Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), also dedicated to nonpartisan election research, took over EPI management in 2017.

The EPI measures election systems performance biennially across 18 indicators, including voter registration rates, ballot rejection rates, wait times, whether a post-election audit is required, and online voter lookup tools. Since 2010, the EPI has measured improvements in election administration in nearly every state in the U.S.

This week, the EPI reported that New Mexico ranked number one in the nation for election system performance in the 2022 mid-terms. This ranking is, of course, a testament to the work of both Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver and County Clerks across New Mexico, including our own Los Alamos County Clerk Naomi Maestas.

It is also a testament to the work of the state and local Leagues of Women Voters. It is League volunteers who help register voters in public spaces throughout the year; League volunteers who help educate voters through candidate forums and voter guides (both printed and electronic); League volunteers who help staff polling places, and more. All of this work contributes to the strength of our local and state democracy and we can celebrate this recognition, briefly, before returning to the work before us.

To read more about EPI methodology and background, see the MIT page, [The Elections Performance Index \(EPI\)](#). To read more about how to improve democracy, see the Pew Research Center page [What Can Improve Democracy? Ideas from people in 24 countries, in their own words](#).

Felicia Orth

Welcome, New Members!

Gwendolyn Gallagher writes:

I just retired from a 17-year employment with New Mexico State government (15 years with the Department of Health and 2 years with the Aging and Long-Term Services Department).

During my tenure as a state employee, I was actively involved with the state legislative process, specifically, analyzing and tracking bills as well as testifying on bills debated in committees.

Beverly Neal-Clinton writes:

I am best known for using my intuitive, common-sense approach to peeling away the layers in order to tap into what creates the most dynamic change when problems arise.

I married my high school sweetheart, Vaughn E Clinton. We have been married for 35 years. We have three sons: Preston J. Clinton, Vaughn E Clinton, II and Xavier T Clinton. We have lived in Los Alamos for over 23 years. My journey started in South Carolina and has taken me all around the world to Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica and now living in New Mexico. I was employed at LANL for 15 years and I have always been a small business owner.

My 20 plus years of experience span across time as a US Marine, an internationally certified court reporter, serving as a member of the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association, located in Albuquerque, NM. I have served this community through organizations such as Leadership Los Alamos as well as a Commissioner on the P & Z Commission.

Ryn Herrmann writes:

I served on the Los Alamos County Lodger's Tax Advisory Board for 6 years. I have been part of the Bradbury Science Museum Association (BSMA) Board for 8 years, having served as a Past President and currently serving as the Secretary. I started the Gadgets Museum Gift Shop inside the Bradbury as my project for the Leadership Los Alamos program in 2016. Since then, proceeds from the shop have allowed thousands of students from around northern New Mexico to visit the science museum on field trips funded by the BSMA.

I was a Girl Scout Leader for 13 years. I have volunteered as a host of the Friday Night Summer Concerts for 4 years. I have led the Los Alamos Business Accelerator program for 3 years, helping many entrepreneurs launch successful local businesses. Last year I received the 2023 Leadership Los Alamos Distinguished Leader Award. I have also been a finalist for a New Mexico Hospitality Association Top Hat Award, for my contributions to local tourism.

Most importantly, my husband Hans and I raised our 3 children here, engaging in the Los Alamos Public Schools, as well as countless activities, sports, and programs that our children were a part of.

LWVNM Council – April 27

This year the biennial LWVNM Council will meet via Zoom from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. President Felicia Orth and Lisa Hampton will be the delegates from LWVLA, but all League members are welcome to attend. The purpose is to review the budget and current program and to learn about the activities of the local Leagues. The Zoom link will be sent out later this month.

March Lunch with a Leader: LAC Social Services Manager Jessica Strong

Los Alamos Social Services Manager Jessica Strong has been working for the County for just a year. She is the fourth manager in 2 to 3 years. She began her talk by describing the path that led her to this job. In Pittsburgh she set up a co-working space and realized that on-site child care was a necessary component for people with young children. She subsequently developed an app for people searching for emergency child care. Her company, Flexible, received a grant for \$100,000 to create software to facilitate the childcare program.

Now in Los Alamos she is working with a staff of five and an office at 1183 Diamond Drive, across from the high school. Strong said that the office is “a good first door for people facing need with no idea where to go.” She tries to find out all of the person’s issues rather than limiting assistance to the initial reason for their visit. She assists people in applying for a variety of programs including Medicaid, utilities assistance, housing vouchers. She helps people seeking jobs and physical and mental healthcare. (She remarked that people seeking assistance often need help using a computer to fill out the forms.)

Strong and her staff hold community conversations and work closely with LA Cares. They also reach out to the homeless and the incarcerated. She said that 20-30 people are at risk for homelessness in the community at any one time. They live in tents in the canyons, in cars, or they might be couch surfing.

The Social Services Division manages contracts with partnering agencies in the region who provide a range of programming and services for individuals, youth, families, and seniors throughout the community and also coordinates the work of the Los Alamos County Health Council. They have been working on the Community Health Plan. The interim report is finished. Next, they will identify gaps and develop a plan.

Strong said she is open to new ideas and suggestions for presentations to other groups. She praised her amazing staff and encouraged the members of the audience to join the Health Council.

Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Report – County Council – February 27, 2024

Regional Activities; Foxtail Flats Project

The regular session was attended by Chair Denise Derkacs, Vice Chair Theresa Cull, and



Jessica Strong, Social Services Manager, and Jeramay Martinez, Health Care Specialist, both joined us for Lunch with a Leader on March 14. Jessica (on the left) was our speaker. Photo by Becky Shankland

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.

Regional Activities Update

Intergovernmental Affairs Manager Danielle Duran summarized discussions on regional

activities that County staff have had with Council's State and Regional Working Group. "Many of our issues ... are regional issues," said Duran "and some of those issues can only be solved by talking with our neighbors and working together with those neighbors."

Duran asked Council for input and direction to guide the County in preparing options to consider during the budget hearings for the FY2025 proposed budget in mid-April.

Proposed items for budget options

Los Alamos County is involved in well over a dozen regional projects. Duran said the working group asked itself what areas could be more effective if they had more funding and identified the following:

- Implement the REDI plan. The Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Plan developed by the Regional Development Corporation first came out in 2009. The current draft REDI Plan addresses workforce development, infrastructure needs, and other issues affecting the economic vitality of the region and was approved by Council in November 2023. The entire region will have the opportunity to weigh in on the draft REDI plan at the REDI Summit in March. Budget adjustments may be needed if the County chooses to lead initiatives. (See the report for Council session on 11/28/23, "Update of Regional Economic Development Initiative Plan," in the December 2023 *Update*.)
- Increase funding for Progress through Partnering for additional opportunities, and to aid in project inflation impacts on projects that the County is already working on with its regional neighbors. The County's neighbors say that these projects are needed in order to increase capacity in their jurisdictions so they can better serve their own communities. Doing so would alleviate some of the stress on Los Alamos County.
- Increase broadband middle-mile funding for Pueblo de San Ildefonso project. (See observer report for Council's session on 3/5/24, "Middle Mile Fiber Optic Line

Connecting White Rock to Pojoaque," in this issue of the *Update*).

- Fund a regional landfill feasibility and design study. The current landfill in Sandoval County will close in the near future. A more closely located landfill would benefit all communities in the immediate region. Los Alamos could initiate this effort.
- Establish a placeholder budget to fund Community Health Plan recommendations. The region needs more doctors and better accessibility to serve the current population and make the area attractive to future residents. The Community Health Plan will inform potential actions later in the year. (See observer report for Council's session on 3/26/24, "Presentation of County Health Plan," in this issue of the *Update*).

Council feedback

Councilor Ryti requested that budget options related specifically to additional funding for the Progress through Partnering program be less broadly defined and instead list specific projects.

Voting unanimously, Council directed the County Manager to include the regional activities recommended budget options as discussed and modified at this meeting as part of the FY25 Proposed Budget.

Solar Power Purchase and Energy Storage Agreements with the Foxtail Flats Project

Two agreements with the Foxtail Flats project

Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utilities Manager for Power Supply, said that the Foxtail Flats Solar Power Purchase Agreement will provide 170 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic (PV) power from a new solar farm to be built in San Juan County, NM, with a planned start of electrical energy deliveries to the Los Alamos Power Pool in the summer of 2026.

Olbrich said that a related agreement with the Foxtail Flats Energy Storage Agreement will provide 80 MW of peak power and 320 MWh of daily energy capacity that will store

excess daytime solar energy for delivery when needed, e.g., at night.

Both agreements provide long-term energy reliability and price stability through 20-year, fixed-price terms.

Need for a new electrical energy resource

Olbrich said that there was a pressing need for these two agreements. “One of our resources shut down last year—the Four Corners Power Station—and we may lose another one [Uniper] next month. We’re facing electrification as well as the DOE side. ... When we look at the projected load increases, combined with the long-term loss of generation that we’ve seen recently, we’re in a position where we don’t have a choice. We have to get long-term fixed-price resources to ensure our future electrical energy security.

Foxtail Flats project

The project developer is D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI), an American-owned company with over 75 renewable energy projects operating in 22 states.

One of the benefits of the Foxtail Flats project is that it will use an existing 7-mile transmission line to connect the project to PNM’s substation at the site of the retired San Juan Generating Station. This component is important because the biggest challenge for renewable energy projects is connecting to the grid, which can take many years and be very expensive.

Meeting carbon-free energy goals

The LA Power Pool was 24% carbon-free in 2023, “largely due to our hydroelectric facilities, our federal hydropower, and our Uniper Wind [agreement],” said Olbrich. He estimated that the electricity from these two Foxtail Flats agreements will lead to a 50% reduction in electricity generation carbon emissions from fuel consumption, when compared to 2023. “These agreements are a significant step towards achieving the Department of Public Utilities’ (DPU) 2040 net carbon-neutral goal,” he said.

“Furthermore”, added Olbrich, “there are currently no identified carbon-free generation alternatives at similar power and energy levels or planned operational dates. DPU is continuing to pursue other generation resources to achieve the 2040 carbon-neutral electricity goal. Wind energy is unlikely due to a lack of transmission lines but electricity generation by geothermal sources and simple cycle turbine are under consideration”, he said.

Terms of the agreements

Olbrich provided Council with high-level summaries of the terms of the two agreements.

Solar Power Purchase Agreement. The LA Power Pool would be committing to 170 MW of solar energy for 20 years at a fixed price of \$37.88 per MWh. Olbrich brought Council’s attention to a critical term of the agreement and its financial implications; once the project comes online, the LA Power Pool is obligated to take-or-pay for its contracted share of the power. That means that if the LA Power Pool is unable to take all the power and is not able to sell or direct it to another user such that production must be curtailed, then the Pool is obligated to pay an additional charge.

BESS Energy Storage Agreement. The agreement’s terms are 80 MW of peak power and 320 MWh of daily energy capacity for 20 years at \$13.50 per kW-month. Olbrich explained: “80 MW power is instantaneous delivery of electrical resource, so it’s how much you’re getting at a moment. And if you have that power delivered over a period of time, that product is the energy, the MWh we’re talking about. So, if you have an 80 MW battery that is capable of providing 80 MW over a 4-hr duration, you multiply the 80 by 4, you get 320 MWh of battery storage.”

That battery resource is priced at \$13.50 per kW-month, said Olbrich. “What that means is that we’re paying for the battery capacity. Think of it like a lease. We pay for the battery whether we use it or not. Just to have it there available as a resource for us, we pay a fixed cost per unit of power capacity.”

Olbrich estimated that the average cost of energy coming out of the solar and battery

resources would be about \$75 per MWh, assuming that the battery is used to the full extent possible.

“This resource is at or better than the price of any comparable alternative resource we may be able to get,” Olbrich said, particularly given that it is a fixed price for 20 years. For comparison, the LA Power Pool paid an average cost of \$77 per MWh for power in CY2023, although Olbrich noted that the cost was quite variable and typically ranged from about \$65 to \$75.

What the County could do with its excess solar power

Olbrich said that the 170 MW of power for which the County would be contracting is more than the County and the LA Power Pool can currently use. The Pool’s peak load is only 90 MW. However, Olbrich said that they had received a proposal from Mercuria, a power marketer, to take 50 MW for 10 years, beginning as soon as the Foxtail Flats project comes online. “So, we’ll sell them the power at our cost, and they’ll do whatever they want with it.”

Olbrich said that DPU is also in discussion with Sandia/Kirtland to take 30 MW and a proportional share of the battery storage system as well.

Council questions and discussion

Councilor Lepsch asked, “How much rooftop solar do we have ... in Los Alamos now? And how, if at all, would it change or affect this if significantly more people add rooftop solar in town?” Olbrich said that the current ‘distributed solar nameplate DC capacity’ is on the order of 4.5 MW. “We currently have a target limit of 6 MW of distributed solar, including the photovoltaic array at the landfill. That was a conceptual number thrown out without having a deeper understanding of what the actual system limitations on particular feeders and circuits are. We’re in the process of doing a deeper analysis to understand where those limitations lie ... so that we don’t put ourselves in a

situation where distributed generation could potentially destabilize our distribution network.”

Chair Derkacs summarized the views of the majority of the councilors. “We’ve lost the Carbon-free Power Project as a source of nuclear energy, and we’re soon going to lose the San Juan Generating Station,” she said, “so this source will provide carbon-free energy that will both help us achieve our goal to be carbon-free by 2040 and will also make up for the other sources that we’re losing.”

Voting unanimously, Council authorized the County to enter into agreements with Foxtail Flats Solar, LLC, for Power Purchase and with Foxtail Flats Storage, LLC, for Energy Storage (specifically, the Battery Energy Storage System, or BESS).

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – County Council – March 5, 2024

Fire Restrictions; Middle Mile Fiber Optic Line; Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate 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 arrived during the discussion of the first agenda item in this report. Our observer report is based on discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda package.

Fire Restrictions during Wildfire Season

Council unanimously approved an ordinance that updates the County’s Fire Code. The amendments codify the three stages of fire restrictions during wildfire season, clarify the enforcement process, and specify how the County will declare the stage restrictions to the

public as well as when the restrictions are lifted.

Middle Mile Fiber Optic Line Connecting White Rock to Pojoaque

Jerry Smith, the County's Broadband Manager, said "The project would consist of new fiber optic line from White Rock to Pojoaque. This line will allow connections from the County's existing fiber lines in White Rock, which also tie into the rest of the fiber lines in the County, and then on the other end it's connecting directly to REDI-Net fiber in Pojoaque.

Operational details are being finalized with the drafting and execution of an agreement, said Smith. The high-level terms, in part, are that:

- the Pueblo would own the conduit and associated 144 strands of fiber optic cable,
- the County would have exclusive use of 24 strands of fiber for County operations use and for community broadband network project use,
- the County provides one-time funding in the amount of \$1.8M [subsequently increased to \$2.0M; see below] to execute the new fiber project,
- the County will provide an additional one-time funding in the amount of \$2.4M for the exclusive use of the 24 strands of fiber, and
- the term of the agreement would be for 20 years use and 20-year renewal option.
- Smith warned Council that, "this Connect New Mexico statewide grant will be very competitive. The \$1.8M grant match represents a 30% match to the \$6M total project cost, and the minimum match required by the grant is 25%, or \$1.5M."

Council questions and discussion

Councilor Havemann suggested increasing the match "say to 35%, 40%, even 50%"—to get us over that competitive threshold and increase the possibility of being successful to having this project awarded the grant."

Deputy County Manager Anne Laurent replied, "This is the grant match that was recommended to us by the consultant, but if you wanted to give us more flexibility, we would look into it." Smith added, "My understanding is that other grant applicants have received extra points for increasing the match; Jemez Electric is one of those examples."

After extended discussion, Council opted to increase the County's grant share to \$2.0M, or one-third of the project cost of \$6M.

In a unanimous vote, Council approved grant-matching funds to the Pueblo de San Ildefonso for their Connect New Mexico grant application in the amount of \$2M for a new Middle Mile Fiber Optic Line connecting White Rock to Pojoaque. With Council's approval, the County will also issue a letter of support of this project to the New Mexico State Office of Broadband.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan

The Cascadia Consulting Group (Cascadia) provided Council with a comprehensive update on the Climate Action Plan development process. Presenters were Andrea Martin, the project manager for the consultants, and Jenna Decker, the primary Greenhouse Gas emissions and strategy analyst. They summarized results from the greenhouse gas emissions inventory, listed potential actions the County could take to reduce those emissions, and ranked the actions according to their potential impact, cost, and other considerations.

Although no action or vote was taken at this meeting, Cascadia asked Council to provide feedback on setting a target for reducing the County's greenhouse gas emissions. Most councilors agreed that County staff should proceed with preparing various budget options for consideration during the budget hearings that will begin mid-April.

During her recap of the meeting's highlights, Councilor Havemann noted that, "If approved, these investments will get us started with, at minimum, incentivizing electrification

retrofits, adopting green building standards, developing an EV [electric vehicle] infrastructure plan, promoting EV adoption, and developing a commute-trip reduction program.” [See *Los Alamos Daily Post*, March 12, 2024, <https://ladailypost.com/video-county-councilor-havemann-highlights-march-5-meeting/>]

Greenhouse gas inventory types

Decker presented the results of the sector-based Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the community and County government. The inventory estimated emissions associated with two sectors:

- The Community-wide Geographic Emissions sector quantified emissions occurring generally within the county’s geographic bounds from residents and visitors. Includes emissions from transportation, building energy, solid waste disposal, and wastewater treatment. (LANL emissions area excluded from the total due to data limitations.)
- The Government Operations Emissions sector quantified emissions from County government operations. Includes emissions from County vehicle fleet, facility energy, solid waste disposal, and County-owned wastewater treatment.

Decker also listed a consumption-based emissions inventory that was a separate but related component of the overall inventory. This component quantified the upstream emissions that occur from county residents’ purchased goods, services, and travel.

Greenhouse gas inventory results and high-level recommendations

Decker explained that the Climate Action Plan strategies and actions for the County are based on the two sector-based inventories because the County has a higher level of influence over the sources included in those inventories. She summarized the take-home points and implications for climate action strategies.

The largest sources of Community-wide Geographic Emissions in 2022 were passenger and freight transportation (38%), natural gas

consumption (33%), and electricity consumption (22%). The Cascadia team recommended that emissions reductions actions for this sector should aim to:

- Expand sustainable transportation options, such as biking, walking, and public transportation,
- Expand electric vehicle infrastructure and adoption,
- Increase building energy efficiency,
- Increase renewable energy sources, and
- Promote building electrification.

The largest sources of emissions in County Government operations in 2022 were employee commute (30%), electricity consumption (29%), natural gas consumption (14%), solid waste disposal (11%), and vehicle fleet (10%). The Cascadia team recommended that emissions reductions actions should aim to:

- Increase commute-trip reduction strategies for County employees,
- Decarbonize buildings and enhance energy efficiency,
- Reduce waste generation and increase waste diversion, and
- Shift to lower-carbon vehicle fleet and equipment.

Climate Action Plan strategies and specific actions

Building on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory studies, Martin described how a list of draft actions was developed and subsequently refined using community survey and community engagement, baseline policy assessment, climate action best practices, and feedback and revisions identified by County staff and Environmental Sustainability Board.

Cascadia’s list of 40 draft actions is broken into six focus areas. Each of these has a few higher-level strategies and specific actions.

- Buildings and energy. The key draft strategies in this focus area are to advance building decarbonization, increase building efficiency, and increase renewable energy generation.

- **Transportation.** Draft strategies aim to expand electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and adoption, expand and promote multi-modal connectivity, and enhance sustainable land use planning.
- **Materials and consumption.** The main draft strategy is to maximize waste diversion.
- **Natural systems and water resources.** The two strategies are to increase urban green space such as by promoting urban forest stewardship and to conserve water resources, for example, by encouraging sustainable landscaping.
- **Community resilience and wellbeing.** The draft strategies are to enhance community understanding of climate change and prepare the community for climate impacts.
- **Cross-cutting.** The key draft strategies here are to encourage sustainable business practices and economic development, and to promote outreach, education, and partnerships. Some of the actions in this focus area include collaborating with local Pueblos, expanding partnerships, and developing a sustainable business certification program.

Forecasting scenarios

Decker presented projections of the County’s greenhouse gas emissions based on three scenarios. The forecasts included estimates of potential contributions of specific climate actions to reducing total emissions:

- The Business-as-Usual scenario estimates community-wide forecasted emissions based on population and economic growth.
- The Adjusted Business-as-Usual scenario shows how existing federal, state, and local policies could affect community-wide emissions in the future. The two policies that show the biggest emissions reduction estimates are the Los Alamos Utility’s commitment to carbon free electricity by 2040 and the state of New Mexico’s advanced clean cars and trucks policy that mandates a partial transition to EVs.
- The Local Climate Action scenario shows how implementation of local climate

strategies and actions could affect community-wide emissions in the future. The most reductions were associated with green building standards for new and existing construction, promotion of urban forest stewardship and tree preservation, and promotion of electric vehicle adoption.

There were three key takeaway points from the forecasting, said Decker:

- Achieving impactful, long-term greenhouse gas reductions will require significant investment and policies to transition buildings and vehicles from fossil fuels to clean electricity.
- Carbon sequestration (e.g., from tree preservation/planting) will be necessary to reach net zero emissions in the long term.
- Currently proposed Climate Action Plan draft actions would achieve greenhouse gas reductions, but not to the extent needed to be on the path to the County’s goal of net-zero emissions.

Recommended climate actions

Almost all focus areas had high scoring actions but very different timeframes for implementation, said Decker. Consequently, the Cascadia consultants recommended that the County focus its near-term efforts on foundational steps, including collaboration and partnerships and education, outreach, and training, and transportation and buildings emissions reductions. These foundational steps will set the stage for the rest of the CAP implementation, they said, while the buildings and transportation actions will focus on addressing the main sources of community-wide emissions.

The eight actions that the Cascadia team recommended for the near-term are briefly summarized below. The actions are in the focus areas of Transportation (T), Natural Systems (NS), Community Resilience (CR) and Cross-cutting (CC). Action numbers correspond to those used in the Los Alamos Resiliency and Environmental Sustainability (LARES) Task Force report.

Action T2.1. Expand mixed-use, transit-oriented development policies.

- Continue to expand land use zoning standards and codes to promote affordable, transit-oriented, and mixed-use development to reduce urban sprawl.
- Incentivize building within walking distance of essential services.
- Support existing County policies to maintain and increase housing options for all residents by engaging with non-profit service providers who oversee daily operations of affordable housing homeownership, rental, and rehabilitation programs.

Action NS1.1. Promote urban forest stewardship and tree preservation.

Promote urban forest stewardship through an equitable and inclusive community tree planting and preservation program, focusing "greening" in areas with lower tree coverage and higher exposure to extreme heat.

Many pine tree species in Los Alamos are under threat from wildfire and invasive pest species exacerbated by climate change, necessitating additional measures to restore and protect natural ecosystems.

Action T3.2. Advocate and partner regionally to improve transit network.

- Continue to work with partners such as Atomic City Transit, LANL, Los Alamos Public Schools, North Central Regional Transit District, and NM Park and Ride to advocate and engage in regional opportunities to improve the transit network.
- Reference the Transit Center Study to identify priority areas for County transit access, emergency services, and opportunities for regional transit collaboration.
- Use findings from the Transit Study to increase ridership, implement more micro transit options, provide incentives, and increase route frequency.

Action NS2.1. Promote green stormwater infrastructure and low-impact development.

- Continue to invest in green stormwater infrastructure and incentivize low impact development projects for new construction projects.

- Use green stormwater infrastructure (nature-based infrastructure) to address urban flooding and water quality issues.

Action CR1.1. Conduct a vulnerability assessment.

- Conduct a climate hazard vulnerability assessment to understand how extreme weather and other aspects of climate change will impact people, services, and infrastructure, particularly vulnerable populations.

- Identify vulnerable areas and populations and enhance equity-focused response in emergency planning to extreme temperature events, drought conditions, and wildfires.

- Reference the County's Draft 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan and work with LANL to implement actions identified in the 2022 LANL Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Plan.

Action CC1.2. Bolster green economic development.

- Provide sustainable economic development opportunities and free training programs to support County residents and invest in underrepresented and economically disadvantaged communities and local infrastructure.

- Sustainable economic development sectors to focus training programs may include electrification retrofits, water and energy efficiency retrofits, sustainable landscaping practices (native plantings, xeriscaping, etc.), and sustainable construction and demolition practices.

Action NS1.2. Provide green space incentives.

- Introduce incentives for developers who prioritize the inclusion of green spaces, parks, and community gardens in the design process for new housing complexes and mixed-use spaces.

Action T3.4. Expand non-motorized transportation options and accessibility.

- Support the 2017 Bicycle Transportation Plan, Trails and Open Space Management Plan, Bicycle Work Group, and Public

Works to expand non-motorized transportation options and infrastructure to support biking, walking, and other means of non-motorized transportation.

- Improve and create bike and walking infrastructure, especially in low-income and older neighborhoods.

Target setting

The target of the County’s currently proposed Climate Action Plan draft actions is to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2050. The modeled climate strategies showed that the County could proceed more aggressively, e.g., reducing emissions by 75% by 2040 and achieving carbon-neutrality by 2050.

Difficult considerations for Council to consider in setting a climate action target, said Martin, include how much the County government and community are willing to invest in climate action, and their willingness to introduce requirements, mandates, or standards vs. voluntary or incentive programs.

Council was asked for feedback as to which target should be used in the preparation of budget options for the FY25 budget hearings in mid-April.

Next steps

Over the next few months, Cascadia will be working to finalize the action list. It will continue seeking the Council’s input, especially to flag any concerns about the current action list. Cascadia plans to engage with the community through an interactive community workshop on April 2, an online survey, and focus groups and interviews.

A draft Climate Action Plan will be open for public comment in early summer.

Councilor feedback on target setting

Most councilors favored the adoption of the more ambitious target.

Councilor Havemann said, “If you’re looking for input on where to steer for target setting options, I would advocate for the more ambitious target. I think that’s what the LARES

Task Force recommended in the first place. I think that’s consistent with DPU [Department of Public Utilities] goals, ... with State goals, and ... with the climate science recommendations. I also think that the list of the 40 proposed actions and strategies are sensible and detailed enough that we can develop some plans and budgeting strategies.”

Councilor Ryti agreed. “I’m much more in favor of going for ambitious goals at this point. ... There’s a lot of benefits to the public implementing a lot of these measures. I don’t feel like they’re a tax on anyone; I think they’re actually beneficial.”

Chair Derkacs said that, “Between the two targets, I think it’s always a good idea to be more ambitious. I may change my mind when we’re presented with the actual cost. But if we set that one as our goal, we can always adjust backwards, if the costs are prohibitive. ... It’s important to get feedback from the community, which is ... planned in your process.”

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – County Council – March 19, 2024

NNSA Update; Uniper Termination; Mercuria Power Purchase Agreement; Development Code “Clean Up”

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.

Update from NNSA Los Alamos Field Office

Ted Wyka, Manager of NNSA’s Los Alamos Field Office, provided Council with a quarterly report. Wyka’s previous quarterly report was presented at Council’s session on October 24, 2023; see observer report in the November

2023 LWVLA *Update*. Our summary below only includes information that is new.

Wyka said that the Lab's hiring will level off this year as it shifts focus to mission execution. "They have more hiring in the pipeline, somewhere between 1500 and 1700 this year," he reported. "Those numbers account for annual attrition, which is about 900 people per year, with a few hundred new hires."

NNSA has taken several actions thus far to ease traffic congestion in the County, including remote work, offsite work at Santa Fe, alternative work schedules and additional bus service from nearby communities. To address traffic safety NNSA plans to spearhead an initiative to deter and eliminate aggressive driving by commuters.

Wyka updated Council on the proposed Rendija Canyon land transfer. "Over the last several months, we worked with your staff to understand the potential proposed land uses for Rendija Canyon," he said, "and worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to explore operations for clearance to additional depths. The evaluation concluded that a complete scan of the area is not feasible on the steep slopes. Clearing specific level areas to greater depth is feasible but that requires clear-cutting all trees and overburden, which would likely cost tens of millions of dollars. ... Additional clearing would only provide 90-95% confidence and some level of risk would always exist."

Summarizing the NNSA position on the Rendija Canyon land transfer, Wyka said, "Because project costs are prohibitive and clearcutting would disseminate (*sic*, decimate) the canyon, we believe further clearance of Rendija Canyon is not feasible. As this land is to be conveyed under Public Law 105-119, we would like to continue discussion on the options proposed in 2019: accepting the land as-is, with the current restrictions; accepting portions of the land; and choosing not to accept the land."

Wyka also updated Council concerning its requests on conveyance of land from Technical Areas (TA) 70, 71 and 36 which lie outside of White Rock. "We completed an analysis of the area in 2019 and determined that really no land

was available for disposal in those three areas," Wyka said, "due to the extensive federally protected culture sites ... as well as the presence of endangered species habitat, the potential for unexploded ordnance, ... as well as continued need for buffer areas around the mission activities, the high explosives work that goes on."

Council questions

Councilor Ryti asked about current public uses of Rendija Canyon. "My understanding is that, in addition to the Sportsman's Club, there are trails that are actively used by the public. So given your comments about ordnance, is there any concern about continued public use of Rendija Canyon?" Wyka replied that "As we specified in 2019, ... we're strongly recommending for light recreational use, which includes using the trails, birdwatching, and doing those things which doesn't disrupt below six inches, because that's what we've analyzed for and cleaned up, as required by the laws. ... Anything that doesn't disrupt deeper than the six inches is an acceptable type of practice for that area."

Wyka continued that "I know the County is interested in maybe having a piece of it set up for camping That's something I'm willing to look at with the Corps of Engineers on specific pieces of land because that would require probably going below the six inches."

Councilor Ryti also asked whether the availability of land that could be transferred was reviewed on some regular basis. Wyka replied that, "We're continuously looking but, at least of now, we don't have anything else on the table that would work." Wyka added that the Lab is looking at and considering the facilities that it leases in Los Alamos. "A lot of those are in schools, recognizing that that's actually an agreement with the schools, and it's a money source [for them]," he said. "We're looking at other areas where we might be able to transfer land, move people out of those facilities, some of them such as the middle schools, large complexes, a lot of acreage around them."

Termination and Settlement Agreement between Los Alamos County and Uniper Global Commodities

Philo Shelton, Utilities Manager, provided background. The County had entered into agreements with Uniper, which would purchase wind and solar resources. The agreement was that 78% of that project would be renewable, and Uniper would make up the balance with thermal (carbon-producing) resources. However, for reasons beyond its control, Uniper was unable to deliver on its contract.

A settlement cost was negotiated with Uniper to refund the County's cost of purchasing replacement power at today's market rates. Shelton said, "Just for Council and the public to know, I think we reached a fair settlement that will not injure the County."

The power resources that were to be supplied by Uniper are now to be supplied by Foxtail Flats. "The advantage of that is that, once it's online, that's 100% renewable, it's not 78% that this contract was proposed," said Shelton.

Council gave unanimous approval to a Termination and Settlement Agreement between Los Alamos and Uniper Global Commodities North America LLC.

Short-term Power Purchase Agreement with Mercuria Energy America, LLC to Replace the Uniper Agreements

In a unanimous vote, Council approved a short-term Power Purchase Agreement with Mercuria Energy America, LLC, for the purpose of buying power and energy to serve the Los Alamos Power Pool's electric load. This agreement replaces the power that was to be supplied by the County's terminated agreement with Uniper.

Deputy Utilities Manager Ben Olbrich noted that the contract runs from April 1, 2024, to the end of February 2026; the end date was established to coincide with the planned, scheduled start date of Phase 1 deliveries from

Foxtail Flats. Power will be supplied from renewable as well as nonrenewable sources.

Development Code "Clean-up" and Additional Recommendations

Paul Andrus, Community Development Director, and Sobia Sayeda, Planning Manager, presented a high-level outline and timeline of the proposed clean up and additional changes to the updated Chapter 16 Development Code that was adopted by Council in January 2023. Related ordinances were adopted by Council in May 2023 concerning parking mandates in downtown and other zone districts, and building heights south of Trinity Drive in downtown Los Alamos.

Andrus stressed that these discussions were general in nature and that action on specific items would come later.

Sayeda listed items that had been identified for follow-up:

- Review of specific parcels for Open Space zoning
- Canyon edge access requirements
- Short-term rentals
- Downtown Los Alamos zoning district boundary adjustments
- Review of parking requirements, as requested by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

County planning staff also have a list of clarifications and corrections to the updated Development Code. Sayeda said that these edits should come to Council for review and possible approval later this year.

Council discussion

Councilor Ryti asked Andrus and Sayeda to clarify the list of properties being considered for rezoning. Sayeda replied, "We're looking at it as two separate items. Open space will be looked at in conjunction with Community Services Department (CSD). ... Those seven parcels that are mentioned in that letter from the League of Women Voters, those would be the ones that we will look at. And we can also

have discussions about what other opportunities are there.”

Sayedra said the second rezoning issue concerned the boundary of the Los Alamos Downtown Master Plan. “We’ll identify whether it’s an item where we expand the boundary and rezone those parcels,” she said, “or if it’s just a rezone to some comparable zone for those properties.”

Councilor Havemann said, “I would really hope that we have a sense of urgency on this. ... I really think we need to do whatever we can to help make this a high priority as far as schedule and timeline... It’s really important to provide certainty for developers so we can start making some progress on our economic development and housing goals... So, I just hope that we can do some of the things on these lists, some of these bulleted items, sooner than later.”

She continued, “And similarly, the same thing with open space revisions. I think the sooner that we can address some of the well-thought out and researched suggestions from the League of Women Voters, the sooner then, that we can then give our community confidence that we hear them and we’re not procrastinating and we’re taking action.”

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – Planning & Zoning Commission – March 27, 2024

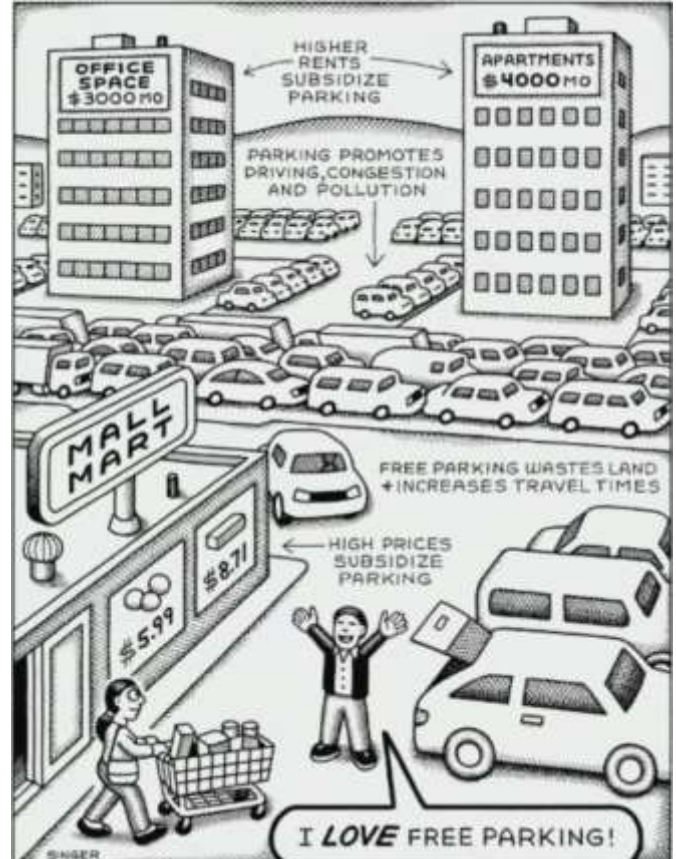
The Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission meeting was attended by Commissioners Stephanie Nakhleh, Katherine Bruell, David Hampton, Benjamin Hill, Karen Easton, and Rebecca White. Commission Chair Rachel Adler and Commissioner Neil Martin were absent.

2024 Planning and Zoning Commission Work Plan

The commissioners unanimously approved final 2024 Planning and Zoning Commission Work Plan without discussion.

Revisiting Parking in (Urban) Development

Tony Jordan of the Parking Reform Network presented a talk on the role of parking mandates in (urban) development. He began with examples illustrating the arbitrary nature of parking mandates around the state and the country. There does not seem to be consensus about how many spaces of off-street parking should be required for residences or businesses. However, each space is very costly. The cost is bundled into the rent in high density housing, making it inequitable for low-income residents who may not own cars. It is cheaper to build housing without parking mandates.



Jordan also discussed the environmental impact of parking lots. Pavement contributes to water run-off and heating and the greater availability of parking results in more traffic. He said that 60 cities in the U.S. have done away with parking mandates since 2018, although developers may voluntarily include parking to appeal to tenants. Jordan favors “managing” on-street parking: imposing a fee if the demand is high. Other strategies include shared parking, improved transit, good sidewalks, and lighting. He noted that it is important to have a plan to deal with potential consequences when they arise.

Barbara Calef

Fundraising Committee Meeting

The overall goal of the Fundraising Committee is to provide adequate funds to pay for costs associated with printing the Voter Guides. The committee met on Monday, March 25th to review our fundraising plan. We also discussed the results of our campaign to date. We have mailed fifty-three letters to the Friends of the League. We have sent out requests for donations to 60 small businesses, and, for the first time, requested donations at Lunch with a Leader on March 14. To date, we have raised \$1,600 from the Friends and the Lunch with a Leader program. We are waiting for responses from the small businesses.

Phase two of the plan is to make requests to the larger businesses in town and the surrounding area, including some grant applications.

Ellen Mills

League Dues Are Due!

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.

There is a Membership Form at the end of this newsletter. Please print it, fill it out, and mail it to the address shown on it, even if you are already a member. The form is also available online at my.lwv.org/new-mexico/los-alamos/join-or-donate (click on the Join/Renew Form button).

The form includes useful information on areas in which you might volunteer and your areas of interest. These can change, so please fill it out even if you have been a member for years.

Please consider making an additional donation when renewing your membership to help cover the costs associated with printing the Voter Guide.

Annual Meeting

Following Lunch with a Leader on April 18, 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. 1:10 p.m. Business Meeting begins
2. Minutes of the 2023 Meeting (published in the June 2023 *Update*)
3. President's Report
4. Membership Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Adoption of Local Program (positions, study, plans for action)
7. Consideration of Bylaws Amendments
8. Adoption of the FY 2024-25 Budget
9. Election of Officers and Directors

Proposed Program for 2024-2025

The LWVLA Program Planning Meeting was held on January 29. At the March meeting the LWVLA Board approved the following program items:

- To conduct a forum on health care
- To remove the pit production study from the program for now
- To adopt the Environment Position and the Sustainable Water Position as amended by a committee including Jody Benson, Barbara Calef, David North, Ann LePage, and Akkana Peck

No new studies were suggested for 2024-2025.

Below are the positions with the proposed amendments in context. (Deletions are bracketed and crossed out. Additions are underlined.)

ENVIRONMENT (Adopted 2012, Revised 2014, 2017, 2024)

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.]~~ reserving Rendija Canyon for recreational uses only;
- ~~[We support adoption of a]~~ storm water management ~~[plan that employs]~~ employing 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 LAG Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council in 2005.]~~
- ~~[We support implementation of the goals in the Open Space section of the LAG Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council in 2016.]~~
- encouraging in-fill development and minimizing sprawl;
- continuing to extend the Canyon Rim Trail;
- requiring viewshed analyses as part of the site plan approval processes;
- promoting incentives to increase use of renewable energy while reducing overall energy consumption;
- encouraging or mandating the construction of environmentally sustainable buildings;
- enforcing the County noise ordinance;
- strengthening and enforcing ordinances prohibiting littering and dumping in the canyons and other public land;
- promoting community recycling and composting programs.

The LWVLA believes Los Alamos County should continue to expand

- the use of efficient technology for its operations;
- recycling within its operations, including purchasing recycled and environmentally safe products, and avoiding unnecessary packaging, especially plastic water bottles.

~~[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, 2021, 2024)

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 inclining block rate structure.

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

- continues 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.
- engages LANL and neighbors to maintain groundwater supply and quantity.

League members will be asked to approve the proposed changes.

Following discussion and votes, members will be asked to re-adopt the other local League positions, which are included here.

LWV Los Alamos 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.

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.

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).

Proposed Actions

At the Program Planning meeting, a lively discussion about healthcare in Los Alamos led the group to approve holding a forum on the topic. We need a committee to decide on the speakers, date and venue. Cam Counters has volunteered to serve on the committee. Are there other volunteers?

Another needed action is to follow up on the letter to the Council in February asking for the rezoning of a number of open spaces in the County.

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos FY 2025-26 Budget

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos FY 2025-26 Budget with cash positions	FY23 Actuals Year-To-Date (05/01/22-02/01/23)	Adopted Adust. Budget FY24 (4/2023) (05/01/23-04/30/24)	FY24 Actuals Year- to-date (05/01/23-02/01/24)	Adopted Budget FY25 (4/2023) (05/01/24-04/30/25)	Proposed Budget Adjusted FY25 (05/01/24-04/30/25)	Proposed Budget FY26 (05/01/25-04/30/26)
EXPENSES						
A. Administration						
1. President's Funds	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
2. Secretary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
3. Treasurer	\$212.00	\$256.00	\$239.20	\$256.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
4. Board tools	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. Communications						
a. Newsletter	\$393.00	\$400.00	\$187.36	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
b. Website + Domain Name	\$605.14	\$560.86	\$400.00	\$560.86	\$560.86	\$560.86
6. Other Administrative						
a. Travel (unassigned)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Printing (doesn't include voter guide or newsletter)	\$22.56	\$50.00	*	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
c. Paypal	\$55.59	\$80.00	\$85.17	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
d. Zoom membership	\$84.68	\$150.00	\$160.49	\$150.00	\$166.00	\$166.00
e. Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Total Administration	\$1,372.97	\$1,746.86	\$1,072.22	\$1,746.86	\$1,916.86	\$1,916.86
B. Per Member Payment (PMP)						
1. State (footnote 1)		\$1,254.50	\$1,267.50	\$1,254.50	\$1,254.50	\$1,254.50
2. National (footnote 2)		\$3,088.00	\$3,120.00	\$3,088.00	\$3,088.00	\$3,088.00
Total PMP	\$4,905.00	\$4,342.50	\$4,387.50	\$4,342.50	\$4,342.50	\$4,342.50
C. Committees						
1. Fundraising	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
2. Membership		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
3. Lunch with a Leader		\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
4. Arrangements	\$465.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
a. Other (Publicity)		\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Committees	\$615.00	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
D. Position Support						
1. National		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2. State		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Local		\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Position Support	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
E. League Meetings						
1. National Convention (footnote 3)	\$2,645.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
2. State Council		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. State Convention (footnote 4)		\$1,500.00	\$1,053.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
4. LWVLA annual mtg		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total LWV Meetings	\$2,645.65	\$1,500.00	\$1,053.09	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
F. Program						
1. Voter Services (footnote 5)	\$2,276.04	\$2,671.00	\$2,461.83	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00
2. Local Government		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Legislative Preview		\$80.00	*	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
4. Other Program		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Total Program	\$2,276.04	\$2,751.00	\$2,461.83	\$7,850.00	\$10,550.00	\$3,550.00
G. Other						
1. Other (footnote 6)		\$500.00	\$172.50	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
Total Other	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$172.50	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,814.66	\$11,950.36	\$9,147.14	\$20,549.36	\$26,809.36	\$13,509.36

LWVLA FY 2025-26 Budget (continued)	FY23 Actuals Year-To-Date	Adopted Adust. Budget FY24 (4/2023)	FY24 Actuals Year- to-date	Adopted Budget FY25 (4/2023)	Proposed Budget Adjusted FY25	Proposed Budget FY26
INCOME						
A. Dues (footnote 7)						
1. Single	\$1,080.00	\$1,935.00	\$1,935.00	\$1,935.00	\$1,935.00	\$1,935.00
2. Single Sustaining	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
3. Household	\$345.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
4. Household Sustaining (footnote 8)	\$1,045.00	\$1,805.00	\$1,805.00	\$1,805.00	\$1,805.00	\$1,900.00
5. Student & Life	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Dues	\$2,920.00	\$5,190.00	\$5,190.00	\$5,190.00	\$5,190.00	\$5,285.00
B. Contributions (Donations)						
1. Members	\$385.00	\$900.00	\$515.00	\$900.00	\$835.00	\$835.00
2. Non-members	\$1,320.00	\$1,950.00	\$730.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00
3. Businesses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Non-Profits/Foundations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$1,705.00	\$2,850.00	\$2,045.00	\$2,850.00	\$2,785.00	\$2,785.00
C. Miscellaneous						
1. Interest	\$6.79	\$8.00	\$18.69	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
2. Other		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. State Council		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Forum Partners		\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
5. State Convention (footnote 9)		\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Miscellaneous	\$6.79	\$1,558.00	\$118.69	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,631.79	\$9,598.00	\$7,353.69	\$8,100.00	\$8,035.00	\$8,130.00
NET OPERATING INCOME (INCOME less EXPENSES)	(\$7,182.87)	(\$2,352.36)	(\$1,793.45)	(\$12,449.36)	(\$18,774.36)	(\$5,379.36)
CASH POSITION BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR				\$34,771.50	\$34,771.50	\$15,997.14
Checking & Savings Acct (May 1 - beginning of fiscal year)						
Net Operating Income				(\$12,449.36)	(\$18,774.36)	(\$5,379.36)
TOTAL CASH POSITION END OF FISCAL YEAR						
Checking + Savings Accts (Apr 30 - end of fiscal year)			\$34,771.50	\$22,322.14	\$15,997.14	\$10,617.78
Footnotes: EXPENSES						
1 - B.1.: FY25&26 Prop. Budg. based on actual FY24 members (82 memberships/111 members). State PMP: Sing. 53 @ \$13; House 29 @ \$19.50;						
2 - B.2.: FY25&26 Prop. Budg based on actual FY24 (82 memb types/111 members). National PMP: Sing. 53 @ \$32; House 29@ \$48;						
3 - E.1.: FY25 National Convention in Washington DC - Jun, 27-30, 2024; expenses for registration, air travel and hotel 2 individuals.						
4 - E.3: FY26 State Convention-TBD)						
5 - F.1: FY25 primary & general elections hold 4 candidate forums & 2 voter guides (presidential/coucil); FY 26 hold 1 candidate forum and print 1 voter guides (LAPS/UNM boards);						
6 - G.1.: FY25 and FY26 PAC8 Filming of Forums and/or Studies to share on website and Facebook.						
Footnotes: INCOME						
7 - A.1.: FY25Dues based on (82 memberships/111 members): Sing 43@\$45; SingSust 10@\$75; House 10@\$70; HouseSust 19@\$95 ; Life/Hon. @\$0; Stud 0@\$0)						
8 - A.4.: FY26 Recommend increasing dues for Household Sustaining from \$95 to \$100.						
9 - C.5.: Actuals for FY24 State Convention reimbursement (spent in FY24 Actual EXPENSES E.3)						

LWVLA Board of Directors 2023-2024

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: Rebecca Shankland, Eduardo Santiago
- 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

LWVLA Nominations for 2024-2025

The Nominations Committee, composed of Becky Shankland and Eduardo Santiago, presents the following slate of nominees for the 2024-2025 LWVLA Board of Directors:

Officers:

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

Directors:

- Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Newsletter: Bob Williams
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Healthcare: Lisa Hampton
- Director at Large: Akkana Peck
- Director at Large: Becky Shankland
- Voter Guide Editor: Lynn Jones

Off-Board Directors:

- Arrangements and Reservations: 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 Reports – Council Agenda Items and BCC Vacancies

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 March 27, 2024 session. All of the items are subject to change.

- Housing Updates
 - Discussion at 4/09/24 meeting
- Los Alamos Indigent Health Care Policy
 - Briefing and possible action at 4/09/24 meeting
- FY2025 Budget Hearings—Action requested
 - 4/22/2024, 4/23/24, 4/29/24, 4/30/24
 - Note: not all days may be needed

County BCC Vacancies as of February 29, 2024

Los Alamos County has 11 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 March 31, 2024.

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

- Art in Public Places Board 0
 - No terms ending soon
- Board of Public Utilities 0
 - 1 term ending Jun 30, 2024
- County Health Council 6
 - No terms ending soon
- Environmental Sustainability Board 0
 - Five terms ending July 31, 2024
- Historic Preservation Advisory 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 0
 - No terms ending soon
- Personnel Board 0
 - No terms ending soon
- Planning and Zoning Commission 2
 - No terms ending soon
- Transportation Board 3
 - No terms ending soon

Totals: 11 vacancies, 6 terms ending soon

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



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 supports state and national League of Women Voters work.

_____ 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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League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
P.O. Box 158
Los Alamos, NM 87544