

# 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

<https://my.lwv.org/new-mexico/los-alamos>

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## Calendar

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| January 8  | Legislative Preview, Fuller Lodge, 7 p.m. (6:30 p.m. for refreshments)              |
| January 10 | Advocacy Workshop, Zoom, 10 a.m. to noon  |
| January 15 | Lunch with a Leader, Zoom, 11:50 a.m.<br>LWVNM Legislative Priorities, Zoom, 6 p.m. |
| January 20 | NM Legislature convenes at noon   |
| January 22 | Board Meeting, Unitarian Church, noon   |
| January 29 | LWVNM Legislative Reception, La Fonda, Santa Fe, 5:30-7:30 p.m.                     |
| January 30 | League Day at the Legislature, State Land Office, 10 a.m.-noon                      |
| February 1 | Program Planning Party, 1577 Camino Medio, North Mesa, 3-5 p.m.                     |

## **January Lunch with a Leader:** Anne Galer on the Electoral College

Our January 15 Lunch with a Leader program will be on Zoom. The link is at the end of this email. Anne Galer is a former career U.S. diplomat. As a Foreign Service Officer, she lived and worked in East and Southeast Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, and represented the United States in several United Nations organizations. She specialized in international economics and finance.

Coming to New Mexico, Galer became interested in adobe preservation, earning an Adobe Construction Certificate from Northern New Mexico College and an Architectural Historical Preservation graduate degree from UNM. She volunteers with Cornerstones and other adobe preservation organizations.

Galer has had a lifelong interest in history, politics, and the operation of democracy, thus her belief in directly electing our president with one-person-one-vote. Her presentation will focus on why the United States should abolish the Electoral College.

The Zoom information is below. This will be sent again nearer the presentation.

Topic: Lunch with a Leader

Time: Jan.15, 2026 11:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86963226991?pwd=0TtwbmuocMO7NPdDZz8SUxJUFvio0.1>

*Karyl Ann Armbruster*

## ***President's Message: We Must Persist***



*Felicia Orth in the Rotunda at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe shows the award she received as 2025 Public Lawyer of the Year from the Public Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico.*

This past year we saw unprecedented challenges to our democracy. We also saw an inspiring number of people and organizations rise to meet those challenges — to resist, and sometimes to prevail — with protests, litigation, and their votes.

I am profoundly grateful to all who showed up, to all who spoke up, and to all who donated money and time in support across the country. Locally, I am grateful to our amazing Board members and special volunteers, who make everything run: Voter Guide, Candidate Forums, Lunch with a Leader, the Legislative Preview, this newsletter, and so much more. I am grateful to our dues-paying members who navigated through a change in the membership portal at the national level to stick with us. I am grateful to the donors who enable us to print the Voter Guide for delivery to every household in the County.

2026 promises even more challenges. We must meet the attacks on our democracy and our electoral system with continued determination. Having witnessed the passion, focus, and creativity brought to these efforts in 2025, I am surprisingly hopeful for 2026. Together, we can do this.

*Felicia Orth*

## ***Legislative Preview on January 8***

The LWV-AAUW Legislative Preview will take place in Fuller Lodge on Thursday, January 8, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and to socialize.

Our legislators— Representative Christine Chandler, Senator Leo Jaramillo, and Senator Roberto Gonzales — will be speaking. . In addition, Kristina Fisher will discuss Think New Mexico's priorities and strategies for the 2026 legislative session.

All of the speakers will answer questions from the audience.

The 2025 New Mexico Legislative Session will begin in Santa Fe at noon on January 20 and continue for 30 days, ending at noon on February 19.

## ***Join the LWVNM Action Committee!***

The LWVNM Action mailing list is open to all League members in New Mexico. It's a friendly, non-partisan forum where members share information about issues being discussed in the state legislature, upcoming League events, and sometimes other topics of interest to the League's mission. To subscribe, go to <https://lwvnm.org/maillinglists.php>.

The LWVNM Action Committee follows bills in the legislature and advocates for or against bills according to the League's positions. The committee meets weekly over Zoom during legislative sessions. All members are welcome, and no experience with advocacy at the Legislature is required.

The first **Action Committee** meeting of 2026 will be held on Zoom at 6 p.m. on January 7. We will be discussing our priorities, to be approved by the LWVNM Board. Even though this will be a short session, there will be plenty of important bills on the agenda.

The **LWVNM Legislative Preview**, to discuss upcoming bills of interest to the League, will take place via Zoom on January 15 at 6 p.m.. All League members are invited to attend.

## ***LWVNM Advocacy Workshop on January 10***

This annual League program is open to the public. It is an opportunity to learn tips from legislators and an experienced lobbyist about how to interact with legislators, speak at hearings, and advocate for your cause. Senator Carrie Hamblen and lobbyist Linda Siegle will participate. It will be held on Zoom from 10 a.m. to noon. The link will be sent by Constant Contact and posted on the League websites.

## ***League Days at the Legislature on January 29 and 30***

League members will receive a Constant Contact with more details including information on nearby hotels and lunch options.

**Legislative Reception** at La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, Thursday, January 29, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. All League members are invited. Laura Paskus, a reporter on the environment, will speak about *Water Issues in New Mexico*.

## **League Day at the Legislature on Friday, January 30**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Three informational tables in the State Capitol East Hall of History   |
| 10 a.m. to noon  | State Land Office, Morgan Hall, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail   |
| 10:00 to 10:30   | Orientation to League Day  |
| 10:30 to 11:15   | Richard Anklam, President & Executive Director of the NM Tax Research Institute, <i>Budget, and Tax Issues in the 2026 Session</i> |
| 11:15 to noon    | Kristina Fisher, Associate Director, Think New Mexico, <i>Interstate Health Care Compacts</i>                                      |

## ***LWVLA Program Planning Party on February 1***

All League members are invited to participate in the Program Planning Party from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 1 at the home of Ellen Mills. We will enjoy savory and sweet snacks followed by a discussion about our positions and plans for action. You can find our local positions on our website at <https://my.lwv.org/new-mexico/los-alamos>. Please take a look to see if there is something missing. We can lobby our local government using local, state, and national League positions. Every League member has the opportunity to influence how the League will focus its time, talent, and funds. To keep the League vital, it is important that a large number of League members participate in this event.

In June the national League will hold its biennial convention. In preparation for that meeting, they are requesting our suggestions for how we want them to focus their efforts. We will fill out the LWVUS Program Planning Survey together.

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

*Barbara Calef*

## ***Health Care Forum Coming Soon***

Mark your calendars for February 24, 2026, when the Los Alamos League and the Los Alamos Community Foundation will be sponsoring a Health Care Forum dealing with health care issues in Northern New Mexico. Access to health care for all, the scarcity of doctors and other health care providers, and the impact on New Mexico of federal government decisions will all be discussed by a panel of experts.

By this time in February the state legislative session will be over, and the panel will discuss the ramifications of any new health care legislation.

Please join us at 6:30 pm for coffee and treats. The forum will begin at 7:00 pm. The location will be announced at a future time. Stay tuned for more details!

*Leslie Wallstrom*

# **Observer Corps Report — County Council – December 2**

## *Fleet Conversion and Community-Wide EV Charging Plans, 2026 State Legislative Agenda, Local/Small Business Recommendations*

The session was attended by Councilors Theresa Cull (Chair), Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann (left early), Ryn Herrmann, Beverly Neal-Clinton, David Reagor, and Randall Ryti.

### **Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan**

The Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan are Council initiatives led by Stantec Consulting in partnership with Los Alamos County staff. The project began in March 2025 and supports implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan goals—30% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030, 80% by 2040, and carbon neutrality by 2050

#### *Fleet Conversion Plan*

The draft Fleet Conversion Plan evaluates strategies to smoothly transition the County fleet toward zero-emission vehicles in support of the County's 2024 Climate Action Plan and broader state-level decarbonization goals. The study examined operational feasibility, EV market readiness, charging infrastructure needs, financial impacts, and Green House Gas (GHG) emission outcomes through 2050. The result is a recommended vehicle replacement timeline and implementation strategy.

Stantec found that 86% of the County's 229-vehicle fleet (197 vehicles) could transition to EVs based on current operations and market availability. Thirty-three specialized vehicles (primarily emergency response) are not currently feasible for electrification.

Stantec compared the County's current EV policy of switching out two vehicles per year to a more aggressive policy that aligns EV adoption with the goals set forth in the Climate

Action Plan. For each option, Stantec conducted financial analysis, estimated reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and assessed electrical power needs.

#### Scenario 1: Existing EV Policy (Two EVs per Year)

- Conversion: 31% fleet electrification by 2050.
- Emissions: 9% reduction (2026–2050); 18% annual reduction post-2050.
- Financial Impact: ~10% increase in total cost of ownership vs. business-as-usual. The total cost of ownership includes the EV purchase price and investment required in charging infrastructure.
- Limitation: Does not meet the County's Climate Action Plan goals.

#### Scenario 2: Climate Action Plan (CAP) Policy

- Conversion: 86% fleet electrification by 2050 (all eligible vehicles).
- Emissions: 30% reduction (2026–2050); 76% annual reduction post-2050.
- Financial Impact: ~35% increase in total cost of ownership vs. business-as-usual due to EV purchase premiums and charging infrastructure.
- Strength: Meets 2050 carbon neutrality objectives.
- Limitation: Requires substantial funding. Successful implementation depends on securing grants, incentives, and long-term funding strategies.

Stantec's analysis identifies infrastructure investment as a major cost driver for both scenarios. The County will require a full charging buildout and facility upgrades to support a fleet of 197 EVs, implemented according to a schedule aligned with the vehicle replacement timeline.

The draft report concludes that, while full transition to EVs is technically feasible for most of the County's fleet, achieving the County's long-term Climate Action goals requires an accelerated, resource-intensive transition strategy. Phased infrastructure deployment



and proactive pursuit of external funding will comprise an important part of that strategy.

### *Draft Community-Wide EV Charging Plan*

The draft Community-Wide EV Charging Plan, also developed by Stantec and County staff, provides a 25-year roadmap to expand, coordinate, and manage public EV charging infrastructure across the County. The plan supports the County's Climate Action Plan goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, positioning EV adoption as one of the key strategies to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

The EV Charging Plan was built on a comprehensive analysis that included:

- Assessment of existing EV charging stations and current usage patterns;
- Spatial modeling to forecast future charging demand, identify optimal charging sites, and evaluate grid impacts;
- Community engagement to understand local charging needs and priorities;
- Policy and regulatory review of state and local frameworks; and
- Electrical capacity evaluations to determine grid readiness and required upgrades.

The plan concluded that most drivers will continue to charge at home, but public charging is essential for residents without dedicated parking (e.g., apartments or condos), visitors and workers, and corridor travel and tourism. Priority charging locations for public charging investment focus on downtown Los Alamos, downtown White Rock, and along the NM-502 corridor. These locations also align with strong community preferences for reliability, availability, ease of use, and affordability.

Implementation of the plan recommends a phased expansion of the charging network aligned with demand growth, community priorities, and equitable access goals. Near-term actions already underway include DC Fast Charging at Mesa Public Library and

Level 2 Charging at the County Municipal Building.

The plan recommends that future expansion of the charging network occur in three phases:

- Short Term: Destination-based Level 2 charging at key community facilities such as the Ice Rink, Aquatic Center, and Senior Center.
- Medium Term: Expansion to recreational and cultural destinations to improve geographic coverage and visibility.
- Long Term: Continued buildout aligned with EV adoption levels and grid capacity.

Most of the public charging infrastructure is recommended to be privately funded, operated, and maintained, following the traditional fueling station model. The County does not intend to subsidize the cost of building, operating, and maintaining this part of the public EV charging infrastructure.

County-owned sites will require a sustainable funding approach, including user fees, to avoid long-term subsidy of construction, operations, and maintenance. For these sites, the plan recommends that the County pursue state, federal, and utility incentives to reduce capital costs and accelerate deployment.

Stantec's zero-emissions technical lead, Analy Castillo, complimented the County's comprehensive planning approach. In her experience, piecemeal planning is far more common, with separate initiatives for buses and other fleets of vehicles, and for different sections of the EV infrastructure. She said "the fact that the County had that vision to do all this at once is very innovative, and Stantec has been using this as an example for other cities and counties."

### *Next Steps*

After incorporating additional feedback, the final Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan will be presented to Council in February 2026. The final adopted

plans are expected to be key documents for utility planning for years to come.

## 2026 Los Alamos County State Legislative Agenda

Council unanimously approved the Los Alamos County Council 2026 State Legislative Agenda, as amended.

The proposed legislative agenda was presented by Danielle Duran, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager. The agenda lists areas on which the County will focus during the 2026 State Legislative Session. Below is a partial list of these focal areas.

### *Support*

- Improved access to health care, medical professionals, and healthy food.
- Improved environmental policy and climate change mitigation.
- Improved educational outcomes for all NM students and schools' abilities to meet educational goals.
- Policy for Paid Family and Medical Leave.
- Reduction of wildfire risk and improved firefighting capabilities.
- Funding for road, broadband, water and housing-related infrastructure projects.
- Capital Outlay funding for Los Alamos County.
- Amendments to the Inspection of Public Records Act which reduce the burden on local governments.

### *Monitor*

- Tax reform that directly impacts Los Alamos County and/or its ability to serve its citizens.
- Distribution of federal funds to address needs in Los Alamos County and throughout the state.
- Amendments to the anti-donation clause.

### *Oppose*

- Proposals that reduce the County's net receipt of general gross receipts tax (GRT) or other revenues.
- Changes to the state school funding formula that adversely impact Los Alamos Public Schools.

## Follow-up on Local/Small Business Recommendations

County Manager Anne Laurent and Eli Isaacson, County Development Director, updated Council on actions taken by staff to implement recommendations from the report from the Council Local/Small Business Engagement Working Group. The Working Group's report, amended to incorporate recommendations from the Local Business Coalition, was accepted by Council on September 30, 2025.

Below are some of the report's suggestions and staff responses.

*Suggestion: Make advertising on Atomic City Transit buses available to the small business community.*

- Staff update: Advertising on buses is not a program the County currently offers. The County does not have the staff nor budget to conduct such a labor-intensive program, which would require selling and managing advertising, receiving printed materials, swapping them out, managing accounts, and other tasks.

In the near term, County marketing staff are developing an online business directory where businesses can enter all their own current business information such as their hours of operations and what they sell. It will be a searchable database for residents and visitors, to be launched in early 2026.

*Suggestion: Provide clear information about how to start a business in Los*

*Alamos County and provide a clear point of contact to help.*

- Staff update: Economic Development staff have updated development handbook information on the County's website. The information can be more widely communicated through the Small Business Coalition (SBC) and the Los Alamos Commerce & Development Corporation (LACDC). Anita Barela, the Economic Development Program Manager, is the point of contact and facilitator for business interactions with the County.

*Suggestion: Track the timelines for LEDA and MRA applications and minimize turn-around times.*

- Staff update: LEDA applications are being tracked by Anita Barela. Updates will be provided in the monthly County Manager's Office (CMO) Update presented to Council.

*Suggestion: Openings, closings and sales of local businesses, gaps, and available lands for development or redevelopment should be tracked and regularly reported.*

- Staff update: The opening and closing of businesses is a planned metric for the update of the County's Community Dashboard update in early 2026. LACDC is developing a land inventory and will be distributing the information through their channels of communication and interactions.

*Suggestion: Consider developing the land in Santa Fe County on the mesa east of East Gate Drive and other County-owned land in Pueblo Canyon.*

- Staff update: Although the county owns a lot of land in Santa Fe County, it doesn't control zoning or permits, making development challenging.

Community Development Director Eli Isaacson has started conversations with Santa Fe County staff about annexing or developing the land in a way that ties into the County's infrastructure.

*Suggestion: Why are the pads at Smiths Marketplace in Los Alamos not yet being developed? Is there a mechanism for the County to get that land developed?*

- Staff update: These parcels are owned by Los Alamos Public Schools (LAPS) and leased to Smiths/Kroger. The County does not have any land development entitlements to these parcels. County economic development staff and LACDC could meet with Smiths/Kroger and see if there are any opportunities to partner to develop these parcels in the near future. Columbus Capital has shown interest in developing the properties.

*Suggestion: Continue partnering with Cities Work to review County processes. Coalition members brought up stacking of permits, which seems to happen for large projects, but not smaller ones. Could they also review the Retail LEDA process and give suggestions?*

- Staff update: Cities Work told Eli Isaacson that its report should be available before the end of the 2025 calendar year.

*Suggestion: Our Change of Use process needs to be more transparent and faster. How can we improve this?*

- Staff update: SBC, LACDC and Anita Barela are well coordinated on training and education about this topic after a couple of unfortunate incidents where



tenants signed leases before they spoke to the County about occupancy.

*Suggestion: Is there a way to create a sense of urgency with regard to developing tourism to support and expand the local business community?*

- Staff update: The tourism working group that includes the County's economic development and tourism partners was reinstituted this year and is led by Ellyn Felton and Linda Matteson. Updates of discussions and activities will be included in the monthly CMO (County Manager's Office) report.

*Suggestion: Implement targeted initiatives to increase the availability of affordable commercial spaces and reduce vacancies.*

- Staff update: The County does not have a legal mechanism to restrict commercial space rental rates. The County can incentivize economic development through the LEDA and MRA programs that will add inventory to market competition. The County is also working to help businesses with renovations and improvements through the LEDA Retail program.

*Suggestion: Simplify confusing permit processes, ensuring consistency and direct accountability.*

- Staff update: The County does not believe its updated permit processes are overly burdensome. Staff have worked to improve the website and staff communications about the processes. Anita Barela serves as the main point of contact for businesses seeking permits, and the County partners with LACDC to support businesses. The Council supported engaging with Cities Work earlier this year and awaits its report to consider future improvements.

*Suggestion: Prioritize and provide financial support for housing initiatives targeting workers earning \$15–20/hour.*

- Staff update: Two affordable housing initiatives have been approved this year: deed-restricted units at the 9th Street Apartments, and A-8-A with over 200 deed-restricted units and 240 market-rate units. Two other market-rate housing projects will increase housing inventory and help temper market increases – Hills Apartments and 20th Street. The multi-family phase of Mirador and the North Mesa housing partnership with LAPS are future housing projects still in the pipeline.

*Next Steps?*

Updates on the County's local business initiatives will be communicated by several avenues:

- updates in the monthly CMO reports,
- quarterly updates to Council,
- improvements to County's Economic Development websites, and
- status of activities on the County's Community Dashboard, with progress tracked by specific metrics.

*Craig Martin and June Fabryka-Martin*

## **Observer Corps Report – County Council – December 16**

### *DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office Update, Green Los Alamos Certification Program*

The session was attended by Councilors Theresa Cull (Chair), Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann (left early), Ryn Herrmann, David

Reagor, and Randall Rytli. Councilor Beverley Neal-Clinton was absent..

## **DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) Update**

Jessica Kunkle, Manager of DOE EM-LA, updated the Council on activities related to LANL legacy waste cleanup, chromium plume management, disposition of excess LANL facilities, and environmental remediation.

### *Legacy Waste Activities*

Kunkle announced that WIPP plans an outage in FY 2027 to undertake infrastructure maintenance and revitalization. In order to continue to reduce LANL's inventory of Transuranic Radioactive Waste (TRU) during the shutdown, EM-LA is establishing a re-processing capability that will allow some of its legacy waste containers to be characterized as low-level waste. The biggest segment of the legacy waste inventory consists of about 1,000 process containers. Although nearly empty, these containers may contain a residue of TRU waste. Re-processing these will enable EM-LA to ship those containers off-site to a commercial low-level waste disposal facility.

### *Chromium Plume*

Hexavalent chromium originates from the use of potassium dichromate, commonly used as a corrosion inhibitor. The chromium plume was discovered in 2004 and is about 1,000 feet underground, below Mortandad and Sandia Canyons in Los Alamos County. Kunkle stressed that the plume does not pose an immediate threat to drinking water wells.

Kunkle described the pump and treat plume control measure, consisting of five extraction wells located in the center of the plume and five injection wells on its margins. Contaminated water recovered from the extraction wells is treated before reinjection. The injection aims to create a hydraulic barrier so that the plume will not cross the Pueblo de San Ildefonso lands boundary to the south. Operations began in 2017.

In March 2023, unanticipated increases in chromium concentrations in two monitoring

wells and the discovery of contamination deeper than expected caused New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to order cessation of injection. NMED was concerned that the injection operation might increase downward migration potential in some areas. NMED stated it would accept restarting the pump and treat measures if specific wells were used for injection while evaluating an alternative means of treated water disposal. However, EM-LA and NMED were unable to resolve their differences.

Last year, DOE EM-LA and NMED convened an independent expert review team to assess the issues in dispute and to recommend possible solutions. The team's final report, published in December 2024, made recommendations on five topics:

- Restart interim measures using a portion of the original system while other studies and field investigations move forward.
- Transition groundwater modeling software to MODFLOW and improve the conceptual site model.
- Drill new monitoring wells to fill data gaps.
- Implement Adaptive Site Management to guide remediation as data gaps and uncertainties are addressed.
- Use dual-screened monitoring wells constructed to minimize cross-contamination between sample intervals.

Kunkle said that efforts are underway to implement the recommendations and resume operations, with ongoing discussions and coordination between DOE-EM-LA, NMED, and the Office of State Engineer as well as Los Alamos County.

Kunkle reported that a second groundwater monitoring well, SIMR-3, is currently being installed on Pueblo de San Ildefonso property to address a data gap in that area. Preliminary sampling of groundwater in the uncompleted well showed unexpectedly high chromium concentrations that were well above the New Mexico State Standard. Kunkle cautioned that abnormal conditions were not uncommon

following drilling and emphasized that the normal aquifer environment could only be determined from a trend of monthly sampling from the completed well.

### *Other Cleanup Activities*

- Ion Beam Facility Disposition Project. Built in 1951, the Ion Beam Facility housed two accelerators. It was decommissioned in 1999. PCB soil remediation is currently underway before demolition of the facility begins in 2026.
- Consent Order Commitments and Milestones. In FY 2025, 11 milestones that focused on environmental remediation were met on time or ahead of schedule. Certificates of completion have now been received from NMED for 589 of 1,405 (42%) Consent Order sites.

## **Green Los Alamos Certification Program**

Voting 5-1, with Councilor Reagor in opposition, Council voted to support the Green Los Alamos Certification Program.

### *What Is the Green Los Alamos Certification Program?*

Abbey Hayward, Water & Energy Conservation Coordinator, presented the Green Los Alamos Certification Program. She emphasized the program's goal to recognize businesses' commitment to initiatives like recycling and energy efficiency. By targeting commercial customers, the program expands outreach and programming beyond what is traditionally a residential-focused conservation program.

The voluntary program, a collaboration with various departments and organizations, allows businesses to complete self-certification via a simple online form. The program recognizes their efforts at three tiers: bronze, silver, and gold.

The self-certification form focuses on energy management, water management, waste management, operational sustainability,

and transportation criteria. The checklists were based on established checklists such as the DOE and ENERGY STAR as well as common efficiency management practices.

Even if the building landlord chooses not to participate, tenants can still qualify at least for the bronze level by implementing simple measures under their control.

Although the focus is on businesses, Hayward confirmed that other entities such as schools and nonprofits can also participate in the program.

### *Who Supports the Program?*

Hayward explained that the program has been in development since 2019 when a survey by the Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance found that businesses wanted education on how to be greener, energy audits, and convenient recycling and composting. In 2023, Anita Barela sent out a survey to gauge interest from the business community. Several businesses indicated reduced utility bills or enhanced efficiency as incentives for participation.

Hayward noted that the program supports County Council strategic goals and objectives — specifically, environmental stewardship and economic vitality. It also aligns with several Board of Public Utility (BPU) goals and objectives. This program also helps fulfill several implementation considerations within the Climate Action Plan, one of which is to develop a sustainable business certification.

The program has received support from the Environmental Sustainability Board, Board of Public Utilities, and Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation. During public comment, Sandy Jones, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, expressed support for the program, noting that younger consumers consider sustainability in their purchase decisions.

### *What Incentives Are Offered for Participation?*

Upon review of the self-certification form, businesses will receive a recognition packet, including a certificate. Incentives for

participation include building walkthroughs with a qualified professional, utility usage reviews, and support for reference materials on items marked "Interested."

In the future, additional incentives may include discounts on business organization memberships, building permits, and licenses, although these have not been explored for this program.

### *Council Discussion*

Council reactions to the Green Los Alamos Certification Program were mixed.

Councilor Herrmann complimented Hayward on the program. However, Councilor Cull and other councilors expressed concerns about the program's implementation, incentives, and potential conflicts between tenants and landlords. Councilor Reagor was

unwilling to support the program because no business had spoken in support at the Council meeting.

### *What's Next?*

Hayward said that the County planned to conduct a soft launch of the Green Los Alamos program in January to get businesses to complete the online form. Initial steps are to publish the Green Los Alamos informational website and host the online application form.

Outreach messaging to promote the program will be coordinated with the County's Bottom Line newsletter, local business organizations, new business license applications, and business renewal letters.

*Craig Martin and June Fabryka-Martin*



# Tickler Reports – Council Agenda Items and BCC Vacancies

## Tickler Report

### Tentative Council Agenda Items as of December 12, 2025

A partial list of tentative Council agenda items from the County tickler distributed on the above date. All items are subject to change.

- **Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair for 2026**
  - 1/6/26 meeting. Action requested.
- **State of the County Presentation**
  - 1/6/26 meeting. No action requested.
- **North Mesa Recreation Master Plan**
  - 1/13/26 meeting. Presentation. No action requested.
  - 1/27/26 meeting. Action requested.
- **2025 Los Alamos Federal Priorities**
  - 1/27/26 meeting. Action requested.

#### eComment Tool for Council meetings:

You can submit online public comments for selected upcoming meetings at:

<https://losalamos.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Select List View and This Year. Locate the meeting and look for “Comment” in the “eComment” column in the far-right, indicating that the meeting is open for public comment.

See details at:

<https://ladailypost.com/county-launches-ecomment-tool-for-council-meetings/>

## County BCC Vacancies as of December 31, 2025

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 listed below as of the above date.

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ▪ <b>Art in Public Places Board</b>           | 0 |
| ○ 3 terms ending March 25 & 27, 2026          |   |
| ▪ <b>Board of Public Utilities</b>            | 0 |
| ○ No terms ending soon                        |   |
| ▪ <b>County Health Council</b>                | 2 |
| ○ 3 terms ending January 6, 2026              |   |
| ▪ <b>Environmental Sustainability Board</b>   | 0 |
| ○ No terms ending soon                        |   |
| ▪ <b>Historic Preservation Advisory Board</b> | 0 |
| ○ 3 terms ending April 30, 2026               |   |
| ▪ <b>Library Board</b>                        | 0 |
| ○ No terms ending soon                        |   |
| ▪ <b>Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board</b>          | 1 |
| ○ No terms ending soon                        |   |
| ▪ <b>Parks and Recreation Board</b>           | 2 |
| ○ No terms ending soon                        |   |
| ▪ <b>Personnel Board</b>                      | 0 |
| ○ 2 terms ending March 31, 2026               |   |
| ▪ <b>Planning and Zoning Commission</b>       | 0 |
| ○ 3 terms ending March 31, 2026               |   |
| ▪ <b>Transportation Board</b>                 | 0 |
| ○ 4 terms ending February 28, 2026            |   |

Totals: 4 vacancies, 16 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” at:

<https://www.losalamosnm.us/Government/Leadership/Boards-Commissions/>



Mail to: LWV Los Alamos / P.O. Box 158 / Los Alamos, NM 87544  
(Each individual must complete a separate application.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
(cellular phone)

Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
(other phone)

E-mail (required): \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:** The recommended dues amount is \$75, but members can pay any amount from \$20 up. **All checks for membership dues should be payable to LWVUS.** 20% of dues will go to LWVLA, 47% will go to LWVNM, and 33% will go to LWVUS. (Only the 20% for LWVLA is tax-deductible. A tax-deduction statement will be supplied on request.)

**Newsletter:** How do you want to receive the *Update* newsletter:

\_\_\_\_\_ email it as a PDF file \_\_\_\_\_ mail a hard copy \_\_\_\_\_ no newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ 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)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Serve on the LWV-Los Alamos Board

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising – Assist in raising money for LWVLA.

\_\_\_\_\_ Voter Guide – Assist in developing the Guide – edit, develop questions, work with news publications, etc

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch with a Leader – order/deliver lunches when we meet in person; help set up tables.

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter – Write newsletter articles on a local issue or League activity for the *Update*.

\_\_\_\_\_ Organize/provide refreshments for forums and other in-person meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_ Publicity – Submit press releases to local media.

\_\_\_\_\_ Voter registration – Register voters at events such as the Farmers Market (with training by the County Clerk's office).

\_\_\_\_\_ Website / Social Media – Provide technical assistance and develop content.

\_\_\_\_\_ Another area (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Optional – another LWVLA member in the same household.

Rev. 11/5/25

*In this issue .....Page*

*Calendar ..... 1*

*January Lunch with a Leader: Anne Galer on the Electoral College ..... 1*

*President’s Message: We Must Persist ..... 2*

*Legislative Preview on January 8 ..... 3*

*Join the LWVNM Action Committee!..... 3*

*LWVNM Advocacy Workshop on January 10..... 3*

*League Days at the Legislature on January 29 and 30..... 3*

*LWVLA Program Planning Party on February 1 ..... 4*

*Health Care Forum Coming Soon..... 4*

*Observer Corps Report — County Council – December 2 ..... 5*

*Observer Corps Report – County Council – December 16..... 9*

*Tickler Reports – Council Agenda Items and BCC Vacancies ..... 13*