



**MINUTES  
of the  
FOUR-HUNDRED-TWENTY-SECOND MEETING  
of the  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**September 16, 2024  
Video Conference**

The four-hundred-twenty-second meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order by Speaker Javier Martínez, co-chair, on September 16, 2024 at 1:32 p.m. by video conference via an online platform.

**Present**

Rep. Javier Martínez, Co-Chair  
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Co-Chair  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Rep. Gail Chasey  
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg  
Rep. Alan T. Martinez  
Sen. Steven P. Neville  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.  
Rep. Reena Szczepanski  
Sen. Peter Wirth

**Absent**

Sen. Gregory A. Baca  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Rep. Andrea Romero  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero

**Special Advisory Members Present**

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Rep. Christine Chandler  
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary  
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez  
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

**Special Advisory Members Absent**

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Sen. Pete Campos  
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Matthew McQueen  
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew  
Rep. Nathan P. Small

**Staff**

Shawna Casebier, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Randall Cherry, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, LCS  
Anesa Serna-Espinoza, Assistant Director for Administration, LCS  
Jeret Fleetwood, Project Coordinator, LCS  
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS  
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS  
Andrea Martinez Cordero, Intern, LCS

## **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made and approved, the council adopted the minutes of the July 18, 2024 meeting as submitted.

## **Approvals**

Speaker Martínez announced that council approval was needed to provide per diem to a legislator who attended in person the human resources training required to hire district staff. On a motion made and unanimously approved, the council approved per diem for the legislator.

Speaker Martínez stated that council approval is required to authorize \$5,000 in additional funding for the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee (CCJ) to contract for continued work on various policy issues affecting the criminal justice system in preparation for the 2025 legislative session. He noted that any authorized funds would be added to the CCJ's budget out of interim expenses. On a motion made and unanimously approved, the council approved the \$5,000 funding request for the CCJ.

## **Pre-Session Staff**

Speaker Martínez informed the council of a request from the chief clerks for approval to hire pre-session staff in October. On a motion made and unanimously approved, the council approved the request.

## **Staff Reports**

Speaker Martínez welcomed Ms. Casebier to her first meeting as director of the LCS. Ms. Casebier discussed the progress of legislative district staff onboarding. She noted that 18 legislators thus far have completed the human resources training required to hire staff, resulting in the hiring of 14 district office aides and one district office liaison. Ms. Casebier stated that the staff working group on legislative district offices continues to meet to discuss questions that have been raised and intends to recommend changes to the legislative district office policy at the October council meeting. Ms. Casebier proposed that the council meet next on October 25, 2024.

Ms. Casebier announced new hires and promotions in the LCS, including human resources and Legislative Information Services staff to support district offices, an ADA coordinator and an assistant director of legislative affairs. She noted that the LCS's office space shortage is exacerbated by hiring new staff, the majority of whom are housed temporarily in offices designated for the house and senate that will need to be vacated in December. Ms. Casebier stated her intent to coordinate a Legislative Facilities Review Subcommittee meeting with the speaker and president pro tempore to address office space needs.

A member highlighted that the accounting department also suffers from cramped quarters, and Ms. Casebier agreed, noting that she is taking all staff into account and viewing the State Capitol holistically when addressing the office space shortage.

In response to a question from a council member, Ms. Casebier stated that the staff working group is aware that legislators would like to hire their district legislative aides as session staff but also recognizes problems in doing so. Problems include session staffing being the purview of the individual chambers, the shortage of office space and that the legislative aide position was designed to work specifically in the legislative district. Ms. Casebier stated that the staff working group would continue discussions. The member highlighted the desire for continuity in staff.

In response to a member requesting information on sharing district office space, Ms. Casebier stated that no guidelines outside of what is laid out in the legislative district office policy have been set. Ms. Casebier recommended that legislators work with the appropriate district office liaison or chief of staff to coordinate the lease with the LCS, as the LCS would be the lessee in contracts. Office furniture would fall under the Procurement Code and would require similar coordination. Ms. Casebier recognized the need for a reference document for legislators and legislative aides.

Speaker Martínez encouraged legislators to look for free-of-cost office space in their communities.

On a motion made and unanimously approved, members set the next council meeting for October 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.