



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

**September 29, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The four-hundred-twenty-eighth meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order by Representative Javier Martínez, co-chair, on September 29, 2025, at 9:05 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Javier Martínez, Co-Chair
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Co-Chair
Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. William E. Sharer
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Peter Wirth
Sen. Pat Woods

Absent

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Katy Duhigg

Special Advisory Members Present

Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero

Special Advisory Members Absent

Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Staff

Shawna Casebier, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Randall Cherry, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, LCS
Monica Ewing, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, LCS
Anesa Serna-Espinoza, Assistant Director for Administration, LCS
Jeret Fleetwood, Project Coordinator, LCS
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS
Gabriel Suazo, Intern, LCS

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Martínez called the meeting to order, and council members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made and passed unanimously, the council adopted the minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting as submitted.

Interim Approvals

Representative Martínez stated that the Federal Funding Stabilization Subcommittee (FFSS) requested approval to add an extra day to the subcommittee's meeting schedule on Friday, November 7, 2025.

On a motion made and passed unanimously, the council approved the extra meeting day for the FFSS.

Pre-Session Approvals

Representative Martínez explained that authorization by the council is required for the chief clerks to use pre-session funds to hire necessary pre-session staff.

On a motion made and passed unanimously, the council authorized the hiring of necessary pre-session staff by the chief clerks.

Appointments

Representative Martínez stated that there is a vacancy on the Opportunity Enterprise and Housing Development Review Board that must be filled by the Legislative Council. Senator Stewart recommended Colleen Ruiz to fill the vacancy.

On a motion made and passed unanimously, the council appointed Ms. Ruiz to the Opportunity Enterprise and Housing Development Review Board.

Application of the Legislative Staff Code of Conduct Elected Office Prohibition to Session Staff

Ms. Casebier reviewed revisions to the Legislative Staff Code of Conduct that prohibited legislative employees from running for and holding elected office. She noted that the policy's impacts on temporary session staff have not yet been addressed, as it was discovered that several temporary session staff for the 2025 regular session — who were hired before the policy was adopted — were in violation of the policy once the prohibition was put in place. Ms. Casebier stated that, after direction from the Legislative Council to review the prohibition, the district office working group's consensus recommendation is to exempt temporary session staff from any prohibition against the holding of elected office in the Legislative Staff Code of Conduct.

Representative Martínez clarified that the district office working group's recommendation was unanimous and only applied to session staff; the working group will continue to review the prohibition for other staff.

Council members discussed the policy. On a motion made and passed unanimously, the council approved the exemption of temporary session staff from the Legislative Staff Code of Conduct elected-office prohibition.

Staff Reports

Ms. Casebier reviewed the district office working group's work on the creation of tiers for the district legislative aide (DLA) position, as requested by legislators. She noted that the working group raised a variety of administrative questions for the role, including how the tiers would be differentiated, who would make the determination to place an employee in a particular tier and whether current budgets could allow implementation of a tiered structure. Ms. Casebier stated that the working group meets every two weeks and welcomes input from members of the council as to what legislators would like to see for a tiered approach.

Ms. Casebier reported that contact information for state police has been sent to the chiefs of staff of the leadership offices for distribution to legislators, while capitol security is developing additional security programming for staff and legislators.

Ms. Casebier discussed the progress of several projects in and around the State Capitol. She stated that new task chairs may be ready to install before the 2026 regular session, though that is not certain, and the new restroom and lactation room project on the fourth floor of the building should also be completed before the 2026 regular session. The exterior stucco project is near completion, as ultraviolet protective film is being installed, and Legislative Building Services will begin the concourse renovation project after the 2026 session.

Ms. Casebier stated that multifactor authentication for all legislative email accounts will be instituted on October 8, 2025, and the voice-over-internet-protocol phone system transition is nearing completion. Training resources for both have been shared with legislative staff, and additional trainings will be scheduled this fall.

Ms. Casebier noted, per Legislative Council policy, that three organizations have used the chambers since the last Legislative Council meeting: Emerge New Mexico, the New Mexico Speech and Debate program and the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries.

Upon a question from a member, Ms. Casebier explained that a time line for the implementation of a tier system for DLAs is unclear, as the district office working group lacks direction for how to meet legislator needs in this respect. Members requested that the working group have a classification proposal ready for the November 2025 Legislative Council meeting and examine issues for rural DLAs, such as mileage reimbursement.

Members debated if a DLA classification plan is necessary, and if so, what may be needed. A member recommended that the district office working group submit several proposals rather than a single consensus proposal.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.