



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

**April 28, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The four-hundred-twenty-sixth meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order by Representative Javier Martínez, co-chair, on April 28, 2025 at 1:13 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Javier Martínez, Co-Chair
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Co-Chair
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Katy Duhigg
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. Rebecca Dow
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos

Special Advisory Members Present

Special Advisory Members Absent

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

Call to Order and Introductions

Representative Martínez called the meeting to order. He and Senator Stewart announced the membership of the Legislative Council for the 2025 interim.

Approval of Minutes and Committee Business

On a motion made and approved, the council adopted the minutes of the January 20, 2025 meeting of the council as submitted.

Interim Committee Appointments

Representative Martínez and Senator Stewart announced appointments to statutory and council-created interim committees. Two new committees, the Federal Funding Stabilization Subcommittee and the Legislative Interim Committee Working Group, were formed to review potential responses of the state to federal funding losses and consider improvements to the interim committee process, respectively. As an addendum, a list of 2025 interim committee appointments as announced in the meeting is available here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ALC&Date=4/28/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Ms. Casebier stated that two motions are customarily made at the start of the interim: one to use the Capitol Kitchen Fund for coffee supplies for interim meetings held at the State Capitol and one to allow the speaker and president pro tempore to revise and make interim committee appointments as needed.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council authorized the use of the Capitol Kitchen Fund to purchase coffee and supplies for interim committee meetings in the State Capitol and authorized the speaker and president pro tempore to make any necessary adjustments to interim committee memberships.

District Office Expense Approval

Ms. Casebier explained that Legislative Council Policy No. 27, Legislative District Offices, tasks the LCS with providing district offices the necessary equipment and signage for their operations; however, any unreasonable or extraordinary requests must be referred to the Legislative Council for review and approval.

Ms. Casebier informed the council of a district office's request to purchase a banner for use at an open house. State Printing quoted approximately \$500 for the creation of the banner. Ms. Casebier explained that this use may not have been envisioned in the policy relating to signage and thus requested council approval to ensure consistency between district offices.

Members discussed how district office budgets are determined and expressed a desire for a level of autonomy in future revisions of the policy. Members cautioned against misuse of taxpayer funds and requested that the district office working group review the policy regarding district office budgets. The council did not move to approve the request for the banner.

Staff Reports

Ms. Casebier introduced Monica Ewing, the recently hired assistant director for drafting services with the LCS, to the council.

Ms. Casebier stated that the LCS will provide training for new members on interim committees via Zoom in late May or early June. All legislators are welcome to participate.

Ms. Casebier explained that Senate Memorial 2 was passed in the 2025 legislative session and requests the Legislative Council to direct the creation of a study group on wildfires. The study group should study, develop and make recommendations on addressing, avoiding and mitigating wildfires to the appropriate interim committee. Ms. Casebier stated that a request was made that the council direct the LCS to coordinate with the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department to facilitate this study. A member expressed support for the request and the request was approved.

Ms. Casebier reported that, pursuant to Legislative Council Policy No. 12, Legislative Space, the New Mexico Youth and Government program of the YMCA was allowed use of the Capitol chambers and committee rooms for its annual conference in April.

Ms. Casebier informed the council that renovations to the State Capitol concourse would be delayed after discussions with the contractors revealed that it would be more cost-effective and efficient for the building's stucco to be updated first. She also stated that the heating and cooling system upgrade was scheduled to begin in the Walter K. Memorial walkway and Capitol North building in late April and could impact the temperature of offices.

Ms. Casebier stated that the next Legislative Council meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2025.

A member expressed concern that the secretary of state's office does not intend to move from the Capitol North building to a new location for at least two years, despite receiving funding for a move in the most recent budget. A member stated that the Administrative Office of the Courts similarly did not want to move locations, but ultimately did move to make space for the legislature in the legislative building.

A member questioned whether district legislative aides are permitted to attend town halls held by Democratic party wards. Ms. Casebier stated she would look into the matter.

Senator Stewart informed the council that the Colorado River Forum hosted by the Council of State Governments West would be held in Santa Fe on November 12-14, 2025. She stated that each chamber is invited to appoint legislators to attend and announced that the Senate appoints herself and Senator Steve D. Lanier.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.