



**MINUTES
of the
FOUR-HUNDREDTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**January 18, 2021
Video Conference Meeting**

The four-hundredth meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order by Representative Brian Egolf, co-chair, at 1:33 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 2021, by video conference via an online platform.

Present

Rep. Brian Egolf, Co-Chair
Sen. Mary Kay Papen, Co-Chair
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Rep. Rod Montoya
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. James G. Townsend
Sen. Peter Wirth
Sen. Pat Woods

Absent

Rep. Daymon Ely
Sen. Stuart Ingle
Sen. Clemente "Memé" Sanchez

Special Advisory Members Present

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Phelps Anderson
Rep. Deborah A. Armstrong
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
Sen. Ron Griggs
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto
Rep. Georgene Louis
Rep. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Steven P. Neville
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. William E. Sharer
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.

Special Advisory Members Absent

Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. George K. Munoz
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson
Rep. Christine Trujillo

Guest Legislators and Members-Elect

Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Brittney Barreras (Elect)
Rep. Rachel A. Black
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Ambrose Castellano (Elect)
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond (Elect)
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon (Elect)
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg (Elect)
Rep. David M. Gallegos (Senator-Elect)
Rep. Harry Garcia
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Carrie Hamblen (Elect)
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill (Elect)
Rep. Joshua Hernandez (Elect)
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Sen. Martin Hickey (Elect)
Sen. Leo Jaramillo (Elect)
Sen. Gay G. Kernan
Rep. Raymundo Lara
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Stefani Lord (Elect)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Marian Matthews
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna (Elect)
Rep. Roger E. Montoya (Elect)
Rep. Kristina Ortez (Elect)
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew (Elect)
Sen. Harold Pope (Elect)
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Tomás E. Salazar
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Sen. Jeff Steinborn
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas (Elect)

Staff

Raúl E. Burciaga, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Amy Chavez-Romero, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, LCS
Jon Boller, Senior Staff Attorney, LCS
Jeret Fleetwood, Researcher, LCS
Erin Bond, Research Assistant, LCS
Nancy Martinez, Research Assistant, LCS
Sara Wiedmaier, Research Assistant, LCS

Redistricting Background — Legal and Technical Experts

Mr. Burciaga explained that the legal and technical experts selected by the legislature for the redistricting process would provide brief overviews of their involvement in the process.

Brian Sanderoff and Michael Sharp, Research & Polling, Inc., provided the council with a brief overview of the redistricting process and estimates on population growth and shifts in population in the state since the 2010 census.

Richard Olson, Sara Sanchez and Michael Browde, legal counsel, provided the council with an overview of their experience with the redistricting process and background on the complexity of the legal constraints on the process.

Comments from the council addressed the following topics:

- legal requirements regarding the inclusion of prison inmates as part of the census of a county;
- statutory changes regarding the use of precinct boundaries as the basic building block for construction of districts;
- delayed deadlines for release of census data to states; and
- financial obligations of the state for legal challenges to redistricting plans.

Legislative Appointments

Representative Egolf moved the appointment of Katherine A. Allen to the State Investment Council, subject to confirmation of the Senate.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council appointed Ms. Allen to serve on the State Investment Council, subject to confirmation of the Senate.

Representative Egolf moved the appointment of Greg Byrnes to the New Mexico Bioscience Authority for a second four-year term.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council appointed Mr. Byrnes to serve on the New Mexico Bioscience Authority for a second four-year term.

Rural Infrastructure Study

Representative Lundstrom provided the council with a request to appropriate \$150,000 from legislative cash balances to hire an experienced consultant to study critical infrastructure needs in rural New Mexico. The study would be completed by July 2021 in order to have the results available for relevant interim committees.

In response to a question, Representative Lundstrom said that the study would be awarded through a competitive bidding process.

In response to another question, Representative Lundstrom explained that the study would need to be completed and recommendations made by the time interim committees begin to meet. Mr. Burciaga noted that the LCS generally issues requests for proposals for requests of this nature, and he said that funds in legislative cash balances would need to be appropriated by the legislature in a bill and that cash balances have historically been used to fund redistricting expenses.

In response to another question, Representative Lundstrom noted that the study would likely commence with a review of existing infrastructure and plans.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council authorized a transfer of \$150,000 from legislative cash balances to fund a study of New Mexico's rural infrastructure needs by an experienced consultant.

Staff Reports

Senator Stewart and Representative Egolf thanked Senator Papen for her service in the legislature and on the Legislative Council.

Representative Egolf also thanked the various public safety agencies and the National Guard for providing security at the State Capitol during the session.

In response to a question, Mr. Burciaga explained that, in consultation with the Department of Health, it was determined that nasal swabs would be used for COVID-19 testing in the State Capitol due to that test's accuracy.

In response to a question, Representative Egolf explained that the council had voted several meetings ago to provide Mr. Burciaga with the authority to keep the State Capitol closed and secure.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.