

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Thursday and Friday, June 26 and 27, 2025 via Zoom. AASLH Chair Christy Coleman led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Voted to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2025, Council Meeting.
2. Reviewed the Investment Committee's proposal to hire an investment manager.
3. Reviewed the financial dashboard for the first ten months of the year and the expected year-end deficit. Discussed staff's plans for ongoing budget reductions and plans for new revenues in FY2025.
4. Considered the proposed FY2026 budget, which included a surplus to offset FY2025; discussed the staff's proposed contingency plan for mid-year expense cutting and reshaping the FY2026 budget if necessary; and voted to adopt the FY2026 budget as proposed, at total revenues of \$2,325,036 and expenses of \$2,222,481.
5. Discussed the Awards Committee's recommendations regarding a submission for the Award of Distinction this year, AASLH's highest honor.
6. Created a joint working group of Awards Committee and Council members to review the criteria for the Award of Distinction.
7. Heard and discussed the report of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee and voted to approve the group's proposal to create a Membership Committee.
8. Voted to approve the staff proposal to create a Corporate Membership category.
9. Discussed the Standards and Ethics Committee's proposed revisions to the AASLH Statement of Standards and Ethics (last updated in 2018) and referred the document back to the committee to seek comment from the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and other committees.
10. Reviewed the Strategic Framework (established at Council's June and September 2024 meetings), the 3-Year Picture, and 1-Year operational plan.
11. Discussed the Making History Matter Campaign, which totals more than \$700,000 in cash and pledges so far and which has entered its "Every Member Counts" phase.

The meeting continued the following day:

12. Voted to approve the revised bereavement policy to be included in the AASLH's Employee Handbook.
13. Discussed staff and Council advocacy efforts on multiple fronts, a body of work that has expanded significantly in the past year: from providing a declaration in a legal case about the dismantling of IMLS, to providing members with information about NEH, IMLS, and NPS grant cancellations, to lobbying for federal 250th assistance for state and local organizations, to continuing to provide leadership and information about planning the nation's 250th anniversary, and more.
14. Discussed new collaborations with other organizations on initiatives linking history and civics, history and democracy, history and journalism.