

Actions of Council

During the 2025 Annual Conference in Cincinnati, the AASLH Council met on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and via Zoom. AASLH Chair Christy Coleman led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Voted to approve the Minutes of the June 26 and 27, 2025 Council Meeting.
2. Recognized and thanked the four Council members whose terms ended during the Annual Conference: Luis Fernandez, Richard Josey, Leo Landis, and Ken Turino.
3. Agreed that the organization should update its record retention policy and attend to digital record retention as well.
4. Discussed President and CEO John Dichtl's presentation about the early history of AASLH, its formation and stated purpose, and its various office locations.
5. Discussed the Making History Matter Campaign, which has raised more than \$750,000 so far, and reviewed several initiatives which the campaign already has helped to fund.
6. Discussed the Governance Committee's annual Council Performance Survey.
7. Reviewed the financial dashboard for the past fiscal year, FY2025, which ended June 30, 2025. The actual deficit for FY2025 was far smaller than projected: \$59,000 versus \$176,000. FY2026 was off to a good start: more than 1,000 attendees registered for the conference, which should be close to budget expectations.
8. Council agreed that the Finance Committee and Investment Committee should begin meeting together as a prelude to amending the Bylaws to merge them into one committee. A joint committee is meant to provide more effective oversight of an outside investment manager to more actively manage AASLH's endowment. AASLH's endowment by September 2025 was \$3,100,000.
9. Discussed changes in approach to membership that resulted over the past twelve months in 8% growth of institutional memberships and 23% growth of individual memberships.
10. Heard reports on advocacy work regarding the nation's 250th, such as convening the states' 250th commissions, and advocacy in defense of historical practices at the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution, as well as an update on AASLH's participation in an amicus brief on behalf of the Institute for Museum and Library Services in *Rhode Island v. Trump*.
11. Voted to approve joining with several other organizations the Coalition for Cultural Heritage Protection, organized by the National Parks Conservation Association, to "work together to educate and mobilize the public, advocate for robust policies and resources, and unite in mutual support and coordinated action."
12. Approved a staff proposal to create a History and Democracy initiative as a conceptual framework, visible identity, and set of programmatic priorities for uplifting the history community and its role in furthering robust public participation and representation in American civic life.