

## **Actions of Council**

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Thursday and Friday, March 5 and 6, 2026 at the Jamestown Settlement Museum, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Several members of Council participated in the meeting via Zoom. AASLH Chair Christy Coleman hosted and led the meeting, and the Council took the following actions:

1. Voted to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2025 Council Meeting.
2. Discussed areas of strategic focus as presented by the president and CEO, John Dichtl: rebuilding data and membership infrastructure; understanding public history and museum issues to better serve the field; completing the Making History Matter Campaign; launching the History & Democracy Initiative; and expanding advocacy support for the state and local levels.
3. Discussed the staff report on the selection of the new Association Management System (AMS) and website platform that the organization will move to in 2026.
4. Reviewed the second quarter financial dashboard (December 31, 2025) for FY2026. Membership revenue continued to improve, the surplus from the annual conference was less than expected, and most other actual revenues and expenses were near budgeted levels.
5. Voted to authorize AASLH staff to withdraw up to \$50,000 from cash reserves as a one-time capital expense for the new AMS system, to withdraw up to an additional \$20,000 from cash reserves as a one-time use to maintain the old AMS, and to draw from the operating budget the additional costs of the new AMS annual subscription.
6. Voted to approve the Investment Committee's recommendation that AASLH hire an investment management firm to handle the organization's endowment.
7. Heard a report from Vice Chair and Campaign Chair Erin Carlson Mast on the Making History Matter Campaign, which has raised \$880,000 of AASLH's \$1 million goal.
8. Discussed the upcoming 2026 Joint Annual Conference, how the program reflects the overlapping interests of AASLH and the National Council on Public History, and ways in which the two organizations might collaborate further in the future.
9. Heard a staff report on the lawsuit in which AASLH is a plaintiff challenging the U.S. Interior Secretary's Order 3431, "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History." The order, like the identically-named 2025 Executive Order it was designed to implement, promotes an incomplete and deceptive vision of American history and has resulted in the removal of content at National Park Service sites across the country.
10. Discussed the Speak Up for History project to create resources and training for state and local history advocacy.
11. Discussed the Democracy & History Initiative, of which the first component will be the History & Democracy Virtual Summit, May 27-28, 2026.
12. Received the draft slate of Council, officer, and LNC candidates from the Leadership Nominating Committee for the 2026 election.
13. Voted to adopt the new travel policy for Council members attending Council meetings, which had been revised by the Governance Committee.