



CITY OF SANTA FE

Governing Body Study Session

January 23, 2026, 1-5 pm Convention Center-Tesuque Room

Summary Minutes

Goals and Budget Priorities

Presented for Adoption on February 11, 2026

Attendees: Mayor Michael Garcia, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Garcia, Councilor Paul Bustamente, Councilor Jamie Cassutt, Councilor Alma Castro, Councilor Amanda Chavez, Councilor Pilar Faulkner, Councilor Pat Feghali, Councilor and city staff (Interim City Attorney Marcos Martinez, Interim City Manager Brian Moya, Andrea Phillips, Andy Hopkins, Interim City Clerk Geralyn Cardenas, Chris Parker, and Christina Martinez), and Dr. Reilly White

Background

Last August, the Governing Body adopted a set of budget reforms for the current and future fiscal years. These reforms included setting explicit mid-range goals and priorities for the coming fiscal year after holding a public meeting to allow residents to advise on how to approach the coming fiscal year. Per Resolution 2025-58, the Governing Body participated in a study session to help guide the city's development of the FY 26-27 municipal budget.

On January 23, 2026, Mayor Garcia and Councilors discussed the following and came to consensus strategic goals and budget priorities for Fiscal Year 27 (July 1, 2026-June 2027). The City held a facilitated budget input session with community members on January 8th and input was considered as part of their discussion. These goals can be amended as needed upon action by the Governing Body.

Preliminary Visioning Discussion

Many cities and counties develop and update statements of their missions, visions and values to help guide their governance. On January 7, as part of a governance training session, the Governing Body held an initial discussion aimed at developing a cogent vision for the City of Santa Fe in the next four years. Elected Officials discussed some aspirations for an overall vision for Santa Fe, including how the Governing Body will work with each other, city staff, partners and the community. Some of the highlights include:

- Become an efficient well-run, collaborative and efficient city
- Tap into local talent and leverage expertise
- Implement approved community plans

- Become more data driven, with program evaluation and transparency
- Continued emphasis on community events and engagement
- Enhance neighborhood cohesion through parties and liaisons w Land Use'
- Balance use of in-house staff w contractors
- Adopt and act on SMART goals
- Rebuild trust and confidence
- Operate without fear of failure or policy changes
- Manage financial pressures successfully
- Address structural/systemic needs
- Remember that the Community is the North Star
- Ensure an empowered and effective Governing Body

These aspirations are a good start toward developing the unified vision for the city and help set the stage for the budget goal and priority setting that followed. If the Governing Body wishes to complete a vision for Santa Fe, an additional study session is recommended.

During the study session on January 23, the Governing Body developed lists of potential four-year goals and one-year priorities to guide the development of next year's budget. The Mayor and Council then winnowed the lists down to the most important goals and priorities in the view of Santa Fe's elected leaders.

Four Year Strategic Goals:

1. City of Santa Fe will serve the whole community by **supporting development of more housing across the continuum of needs, with a focus on affordable and attainable housing.**
2. City of Santa Fe will **invest in improving city systems and infrastructure to ensure efficient and effective use of city resources, which will enhance service delivery and customer service.** This may include streamlining internal processes and procedures, leveraging technology for better asset management, prioritizing data-driven decision making, and recruiting and retaining highly qualified city staff.
3. **City of Santa Fe will work to reduce crime and increase public safety.** This may include ensuring safer streets, crosswalks and corridors, noise and speed enforcement to reduce traffic and pedestrian accidents and to enhance quality of life, and strategic policing efforts to reduce crime and ensure public safety.

FY 27 Budget Priorities: Aligning Expenditures with City Strategic Goals

After discussing the Four-Year Strategic Goals and considering public input from the January 8 community budget workshop, Governing Body members expressed the following as key priorities for the FY27 (2026-27) city budget.

1. Support development of more housing across the continuum of needs, with a focus on affordable and attainable housing, including support for wrap-around services.

Strategies may include:

- a. Convening and aligning with partners to develop an overall strategy for addressing needs for unhoused individuals and families in our community, including wrap-around/supportive services.
- b. Partnering with the private sector and non-profit developers to encourage development of more affordable housing of various types.

2. Invest in improving city systems and infrastructure to ensure efficient and effective use of city resources, to improve service delivery and customer service. Strategies include:

- a. Identify city processes and procedures that are overly burdensome and unnecessary that can be streamlined and modernized.
- b. Utilize technology tools for asset management to ensure optimal decision-making for care and replacement of city assets (streets, water/wastewater infrastructure, fleet management, facilities and more).
- c. Invest in city staff to reduce turnover, recruit and retain highly qualified personnel, and improve opportunities for advancement and professional development.

3. Focus on Measures to Reduce Crime and Increase Public Safety: Programs and projects that focus on enhancing safety throughout the community are high priority. Initiatives may include:

- a. Design, construct and maintain public infrastructure to ensure safer streets and crosswalks and corridors. Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety and development of an “age friendly” community.
- b. Implement automatic camera enforcement technology to address noise and speed issues in key areas to reduce traffic and pedestrian/bicycle accidents and to enhance quality of life
- c. Enhance strategic and community policing efforts to reduce crime and support public safety.

Staff recommend that the Governing Body hear from the public regarding the proposed goals and priorities, continue its deliberation, making any changes as needed, and adopt the final goals and priorities for the FY 27 municipal budget.