

# **TORRANCE COUNTY**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 02**

---

### **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING TORRANCE COUNTY'S OPEN MEETINGS ACT COMPLIANCE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

---

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1 through 10-15-4 NMSA 1978, as amended, provides that affected bodies, "...shall determine at least annually in a public meeting what notice for a public meeting is reasonable when applied to that body," and, "shall keep written minutes of all its meetings," except as otherwise provided in Section 10-15-1 (H).

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners, the governing body of the County of Torrance, New Mexico, pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, that:

1. Reasonable notice was given to the public of the meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of Torrance, New Mexico, held this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.
2. Reasonable notice to the public of any meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County, New Mexico shall consist of notice being published on the County's webpage, on the County's public communications board located at the County's Administrative Building, and to newspapers of general circulation and FCC licensed broadcast media, when appropriate, according to the notice periods set forth hereafter, including but not limited to:
  - A. Any regular meetings:
    - i. public announcement at any previous meeting of the date, time and place it is to be held; and
    - ii. posting a list of all regular meetings to be held in the calendar year including date, time and place of the meetings, on the County website and on the County calendar of events; and

- iii. publishing notice on the County's Public Communications Board located at the Torrance County Administrative Building; or
- iv. giving notice of the date, time and place thereof either by telephone, or in person, or by written notice to the City Desk of at least one (1) daily newspaper having circulation in Torrance County, New Mexico, not less than three (3) days before the meeting is to commence, or
- v. giving notice of the date, time and place thereof either by telephone, or in person, or by letter at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting to a representative of any radio or television station which regularly broadcasts news within Torrance County, New Mexico, or
- vi. giving notice of the date, time and place of the meeting in a daily newspaper having a general circulation in Torrance County, New Mexico, not less than three (3) days in advance of the time the meeting is to commence, or
- vii. during business hours having available for inspection by members of the public at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting, a copy of the notice including date, time, location and agenda at the Administrative Offices of Torrance County located at 205 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Estancia, New Mexico, or
- viii. providing a list of regular meetings to be published in the weekly calendar of a daily newspaper having a general circulation in Torrance County, New Mexico.

B. Any special meetings:

- i) publishing notice on the County webpage and County Calendar of events not less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting; and
- ii) publishing notice on the County's Public Communications Board located at the Torrance County Administrative Building; or
- iii) publishing notice of the date, time and place in a daily newspaper having a general circulation in Torrance County, New Mexico, not less than 72 hours in advance of the time the meeting is to commence, or

- iv) giving notice in person, by telephone or by written notice to the City Desk of at least one (1) daily newspaper having general circulation in Torrance County, New Mexico at least 72 hours before the commencement of the meeting, or
- iii) giving notice of the date, time and place thereof either by telephone, or in person, or by hand delivered letter at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to an employee of any radio or television station which regularly broadcasts news within Torrance County, New Mexico.

C. Any emergency meetings:

- i) An emergency meeting is a meeting called by any member of the Board of County Commissioners or the County Manager, orally or in writing to deal with an unforeseen circumstance that, if not addressed immediately by the Board of County Commissioners, will likely result in injury or damage to persons or property or substantial financial loss to Torrance County. The Board should avoid emergency meetings wherever possible but understands that these types of circumstances may necessarily arise.
- ii) Notice shall be as much notice as is permitted by the nature of the emergency.

D. Each of the above-described notices for regular and special meetings shall include notice that a printed agenda for the meeting will be available in the Manager's Office of the Torrance County Administrative Building at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting unless it is a weekend, in which case the agenda will be available by 4:30 p.m. on the Friday prior to the meeting.

E. In addition to the information specified above, all notices and/or meeting agendas shall include the following language:

"If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing(s) or meeting(s), please contact the Manager's Office at 544-4700 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Manager's Office at the number listed above if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed."

F. No action shall be taken at a meeting on any items, other than a declared emergency item, not appearing on the final agenda for the meeting. An emergency refers to unforeseen circumstances that, if not addressed immediately by the Board, will likely result in injury or damage to persons or property or substantial financial loss to Torrance County.

G. Closed meetings shall not be held except under the conditions provided in Sec. 10-15-1 (H) N.M.S.A. 1978 Comp. as amended.

H. Except as provided in Sec. 10-15-1 (H) N.M.S.A. 1978 Comp. as amended, any necessary final action to be taken as a result of discussions in a closed meeting shall be made by vote of the Board in an open public meeting.

It is further determined that substantial compliance with any one or more of the foregoing alternatives which may be applicable is reasonable notice, but this determination shall not be construed to prevent the use of additional means or methods of making known the date, time or place of holding any public meeting, or other information with reference thereto, as may be directed from time to time by or under authorization of the County Manager; further, this resolution shall not be construed to require notice in instances where the same is not required by law.

The foregoing determination shall be applicable to all meetings held after January 8, 2025.

v) Minutes of the open meetings of the Board shall be a concise, but an accurate, written summary statement of all subject matter discussed in addition to the following minimal information:

- a. the date, time and place of the meeting,
- b. the names of staff members who address the Board and a list of those Board members present,
- c. a statement of what proposals were considered; and
- d. a summary record of discussion made by the body and of how each Board member voted.

---

vi) A draft copy of the minutes shall be prepared within ten (10) working days of the meeting. Draft copies of these minutes shall be available for public inspection and should clearly indicate on the draft that they are not the official minutes and subject to approval by the Board.

vii) All or any part of this resolution may be amended or modified by the Board from time to time. If any provision or clause of this resolution is held invalid, such as invalidity shall not affect the other provisions and clauses are declared to be servable.

I. Any member of the governing body of Torrance County may participate in a meeting of such governing body by means of a conference telephone, video communication, or other similar communications equipment when it is otherwise difficult or impossible for the member to attend the meeting in person; provided that each member participating by other means can be identified when speaking; all participants are able to hear each other at the same time; and members of the public attending the meeting are able to hear any member of the public body who speaks during the meeting.

J. With the adoption of this resolution, prior approved Open Meetings Act Resolutions are hereby repealed and replaced.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 14 DAY OF January, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TORRANCE COUNTY:

  
Ryan Schwebach, Chair, District 2

  
Kevin McCall, Vice Chair, District 1

  
Linda Jaramillo, Member, District 3

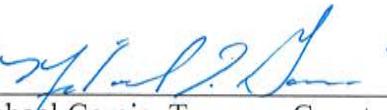
ATTEST:

  
Sylvia Chavez, Torrance County Clerk

1/13/2026  
Date



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Garcia, Torrance County Attorney