

**TORRANCE COUNTY**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 47**

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**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TORRANCE COUNTY'S  
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION**

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**WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2025, October 22, 2025, and November 12, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County ("BCC") discussed the legislative priorities for Torrance County for the 2026 Legislative Session; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of these discussions, County Departments were asked to provide and present statutory changes, requested funding appropriations, and other legislative items for the 2026 Legislative Session, which they felt would be a benefit to the County and/or its constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the BCC also presented several legislative priorities the body they felt should be considered during the 2026 Legislative Session, which address critical needs in Torrance County and throughout the state; and

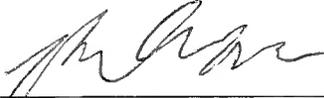
**WHEREAS**, by adopting these priorities, Torrance County can provide support for particular legislation submitted during the 2026 Legislative Session that aims to meet these priorities and goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County hereby adopts Exhibit A of this resolution establishing Torrance County Legislative Priorities for the 2026 legislative session.

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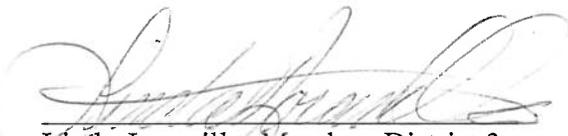
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 10 DAY OF December, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TORRANCE COUNTY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Schwebach, Chair, District 2

  
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Kevin McCall, Vice Chair, District 1

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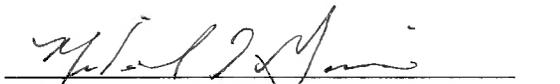
  
Linda Jaramillo, Member, District 3



**ATTEST:**  
  
Sylvia Chavez, Torrance County Clerk

12/10/2025  
Date

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Michael Garcia, Torrance County Attorney

## EXHIBIT A

### 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – TORRANCE COUNTY

The Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County (“BCC”), hereby adopts the following legislative priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session.

- Change Definition of “First Responders” in State statute to recognize dispatchers as First Responders: The BCC supports legislation that would recognize local government dispatchers as First Responders, by amending the definition of “First Responders” in various state statutes to include emergency communications staff. Dispatch staff and those working in emergency communications provide critical public safety services for the community. In addition, dispatchers engage in shift work, work overtime hours, and are exposed to trauma and critical incidents in the workplace, similar to other first responders. Classifying dispatchers and first responders would formally recognize these facts, provide dispatchers with similar retirement benefits as other first responders, and would aid local government’s ability to hire and retain staff in these positions.
- Request Changes to the Tax Refund Intercept Program Act (7-2C-2 NMSA 1978) and the Administration and Enforcement of Property Taxes Act (7-38-52 NMSA 1978) to aid Counties in collection of Delinquent Property Taxes on mobile homes: The BCC supports changes to the aforementioned statutes being proposed by the New Mexico Counties Treasurer’s Affiliate to help aid Counties in the collection of delinquent property taxes on mobile homes. Currently, there are minimal avenues of collections and enforcement on delinquent property taxes on mobile homes, and these changes would help provide a degree of equitable enforcement on property tax collection for these properties.
- Request Additional Funding to Plan, Design, Construct and Operate Regional Rural Emergency Rooms and Urgent Care Facilities in Remote Parts of the State. One of the most significant public health concerns in Torrance County is the complete lack of an emergency room or urgent care facility within close proximity to the County. Due to the lack of this level of care locally, many patients are being transported by ambulance to Albuquerque on a daily basis. Though there will always be a need for transport to Albuquerque for trauma care, many patients could be treated for non-life-threatening conditions locally if a regional emergency room or urgent care facility was established. This type of medical facility would provide a benefit for all County residents, while alleviating continual transport strains of EMS personnel.
- Request an Evaluation of Private Water Systems by the Public Regulation Commission and Other State Agencies to Aid in Compliance and Oversight of Private Water Systems in an Attempt to Mitigate System Failures. According to data from the NM Environment Department, there are approximately 10,000 residents served by private water systems within Torrance County, which is approximately 62% of the total population. Recently, privately owned water systems have failed, leaving hundreds of residents without access to residential water services for extended periods of time. The County believes that the system failures could have been avoided with additional oversight of the system, which

would include evaluation of long-term water planning, evaluation of water rates over time, maintenance and capital improvements expenditure reporting, and ground water monitoring on the part of the system. Since private water systems fall under the purview of the State, the County supports funding, statutory changes, or changes to administrative codes that would further aid the State's ability to monitor compliance of private water systems throughout New Mexico.