Resolution Supporting the New Mexico Counties 2027 Legislative Priorities

Resolution No. 2026-39

WHEREAS, in August 2026 the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2026 session; *and*

WHEREAS, NMC has requested that the Board of County Commissioners in each of the state's 33 counties discuss and approve support for NMC's legislative priorities as an important step in assuring maximum understanding of NMC's legislative priorities at the county level; *and*

WHEREAS, county support enables NMC to demonstrate strong local and statewide support to the state legislature for the following issues:

1. HB 2 Appropriations

   Detention Reimbursement Fund
   Fully fund County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act Fund to reimburse counties for the actual cost of housing state inmates.
   - According to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, the five-year average cost to house New Mexico Corrections Department inmates is $9.38 million.
   - Only $4.7 million was appropriated in 2025

   700 MHz Radios
   Authorize continued funding for the monthly operational costs of 700 MHz radios to build out state interconnectivity infrastructure.

   Special Appropriation for Disabled Veterans Exemption
   Support an appropriation to offset operational revenue losses in counties that reach the mill rate cap as a direct result of veterans' exemptions enacted by the legislature

2. Governmental Solvency

   Support three narrow amendments to the New Mexico Civil Rights Act that preserve accountability while addressing the unsustainable escalation in cost: 1) remove the automatic annual escalator in the cap; 2) clarify that stacking damages under both the NMCRA and the New Mexico Tort Claims Act (NMTCA) is not allowed; and 3) align the notice provision to match the notice requirements under the NMTCA.

3. IPRA Improvements

   Support efforts — including consensus recommendations developed by the Department of Justice's Inspection of Public Records Task Force — to amend the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) to limit abusive requests, protect crime victims and juveniles, and secure critical infrastructure.

4. Emergency Medical Services as an Essential Government Service

   Support necessary changes to state statute that will recognize emergency medical service (EMS) providers, both career and volunteer, as delivering essential services and an integral part of the state's health-care infrastructure. By reflecting this designation, NMAC aims to strengthen

counties' eligibility for future federal appropriations, particularly in rural communities where EMS resources are most strained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Torrance County Board of County Commissioners does hereby support NMC's legislative priorities as set forth above and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the state legislature during its 2027 session.

ADOPTED this 12 of November, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TORRANCE, NEW MEXICO

Ryan Schwebach, Chair, District 2 — For / Against

Linda Jaramillo, Vice-Chair, District 3 — For / Against

Kevin McCall, Commissioner, District 1 — For / Against

Michael Garcia
County Attorney

TORRANCE COUNTY SEAL STATE OF NEW MEXICO CLERK

ATTEST:

Sylvia Chavez
County Clerk