



NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES POLICY STATEMENT

The New Mexico Association of Counties’ (NMAC) mission is to strengthen New Mexico counties’ ability to govern their own affairs and to improve the well-being and quality of life of their constituents.

County Government

NMAC supports a policy making process in which all elected county officials and citizens have a voice and recognizes that each county government can best determine how to manage its own affairs and meet the needs of its constituents.

NMAC opposes preemption of local authority and any attempts to restrict local authority.

NMAC opposes unfunded mandates imposed on county government.

Economic Development & Infrastructure

NMAC supports programs, such as LEDA and JTIP, that create and aid both public and private enterprises to plan, finance, and develop job-related industries, businesses, and facilities, including renewable energy production, that are compatible with local needs and desires.

NMAC supports a transparent, efficient, and effective capital outlay process.

NMAC supports affordable high-speed connectivity access.

NMAC supports adequate and recurring federal and state funding sources for public road, bridges, and transportation programs.

NMAC opposes any restriction on the ability of counties to assess fees against users of public rights-of-way or the right of local government to control rights-of-way, zoning authority, or the right to receive usage and rental compensation from telecommunication and other utility providers.

Elections and Accountable Government

NMAC supports transparency in governmental decision-making, open elections, and increased voter participation.

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources

NMAC supports significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local environmental, energy, and natural resources initiatives.

NMAC believes that strong working relationships among federal, state, local and tribal entities aid land management and that federal and state government should not preempt local authority.

NMAC supports adoption of sustainable water management policies.

Healthcare and Human Services

NMAC supports the significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local healthcare, human services, and Medicaid planning, funding, and service delivery decision making, and opposes any measure that would further shift federal and state healthcare costs to county government.

Justice and Public Safety

NMAC supports adequate community behavioral health services and effective diversion of individuals with serious mental illness and substance abuse problems from county detention facilities.

NMAC supports effective and efficient delivery of public safety and emergency response services in all counties.

NMAC supports adequate funding for emergency medical services, 911 services, and the Local DWI Grant Fund.

NMAC supports effective and efficient criminal adjudication processes.

NMAC opposes unnecessary incarceration of youth and adults in county detention facilities.

NMAC supports continued and adequate funding for county detention facilities.

Taxation and Revenue

NMAC supports tax reform efforts that improve economic efficiency, economic development, ease of administration, and overall fairness of the state and local tax system. It is essential that NMAC fully participate in legislative and executive efforts to restructure and reform the state and local tax system.

NMAC supports the following tax policy principles: simplicity, transparency, economic neutrality, and equity.

NMAC supports a high quality property tax valuation system designed to maximize equity, fairness, and transparency among property tax owners, while minimizing administrative complexity and confusion.

NMAC supports full federal funding of Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools.

NMAC opposes legislation that has a significant negative impact on county revenue.