We Have Way Too Many Counties in America. Or Do We? – governing.com

Counties range in size from thousands of residents to millions, with varied levels of responsibility and efficiency. Some advocate shrinking the number of them, but that raises questions both practical and sentimental. The 2020 census revealed 53% of counties had lost population:

- Georgia has the most counties at 159
- Los Angeles County serves 10M residents
- Massachusetts' counties no longer do much except for a few that conduct limited law enforcement and detention.
- Connecticut and Rhode Island have no county government at all; former counties merely serve as geographical boundaries.
- Most counties run prisons and mental institutions, hospitals and welfare offices.
- Counties are the repository of emotion and memory for people who live there.
- In most counties, the courthouse square has served generations as the focal point of social life; the courthouse allows citizens to feel that they live in a place with stature and dignity, even if it keeps losing population.

At the Gathering of Counties this week, the NMC (New Mexico Counties) delivered telecommunication services to your communities, connectivity to all 33 counties.

Jacqueline Miramontes, 505-888-9470, jacqueline@groundworksnm.org shares her passion for connecting all New Mexicans. If your county has not responded, please fill out the NM Broadband Collective Fund reporting portal. Help close the broadband gap between the state legislature funding and the ARPA funding by conducting a survey of all counties, looking for more effective ways to serve as geographical boundaries.

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Share your experience with some elected officials. So stay tuned in.

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Connectivity to all 33 counties. The NM Broadband Collective serves 10 M residents. If your county has not responded, please fill out the NM Broadband Collective Fund reporting by contacting Jacqueline Miramontes, 505-888-9470, jacqueline@groundworksnm.org. The last mile of broadband delivers telecommunication services to your communities, connectivity to all 33 counties.

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