New Mexico Association of Counties 2027 Legislative Priorities

HB2 Appropriations

Detention Reimbursement Fund
Support full funding of the County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act Fund to reimburse counties for the actual cost of housing state inmates. The statutory obligation, according to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission was $9.38 million, but only $4.97 million was appropriated in 2025.

700 MHz Radios
Support continued funding for the monthly operational costs of 700 MHz radios to build statewide 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.

Governmental Solvency

Support three narrow amendments to the New Mexico Civil Rights Act: 1) remove the automatic annual escalator and return to the initial statutory established cap of $2 million; 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. Maintain protections and accountability while addressing unsustainable costs.

IPRA Improvements

Support the eleven 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.

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.

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