



New Mexico Counties 2026 Legislative Priorities

HB2 Appropriations

Detention Reimbursement Fund

Fully fund 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 is \$9.38 million, but only \$4.7 million was appropriated in 2025.

Courthouse Funding

Authorize continued funding to the Administrative Office of the Courts for the construction and renovation of state district courthouses. Counties maintain that these courthouses are a state responsibility and that the rising costs of construction, security, and IT necessitate a shared revenue stream.

700 MHz Radios

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

Detention Recruitment & Retention

Authorize continued funding for the Corrections Workforce Capacity Building Fund administered by DFA. Adequate detention staff are essential to a safe, well-operated facility, which is directly correlated to community safety.

Firefighter/EMS Recruitment Fund

Authorize continued funding for the Fire & EMS Recruitment Fund administered by DFA for fire departments to staff firefighters and EMS personnel. Call volumes have increased by 50% and response systems remain significantly over-burdened.

RISE Funding

Secure HSD funding for county participation in the RISE (Reach, Intervene, Support, and Engage) Program to provide behavioral health, medically assisted treatment (MAT), housing, vocational, and other services to people in detention.

IPRA Improvements

Amend the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) to exempt from disclosing specific information and prohibit certain requests used to compromise and obstruct critical local government services.

Property Tax Exemptions Deadline for Veterans

Require all veterans to file for a property tax exemptions within the existing property tax annual schedule to ensure equitable treatment for all taxpayers and allow counties to accurately budget for the fiscal year. Veterans would have 30-days after the notice of value to file an exemption or request an extension for up to 180 days to resolve any delays in certification.

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