

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 100

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEW MEXICO COUNTIES 2025 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, in August 2024, the New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2025 Regular 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

A. 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 \$8.2 million.
- Current fund at \$5 million

B. Courthouse Funding

Authorize continued funding to Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for construction and renovation of state district courthouses.

- Counties maintain that courthouses are a state responsibility and that the rising costs of construction, security, and IT necessitate a shared revenue stream.

C. Detention Recruitment and Retention

Authorize continued funding for the newly formed Corrections Workforce Capacity Building Fund administered by DFA.

- Adequate detention staff are essential to a safe, well-operated detention facility, which is directly correlated to community safety.

D. Firefighter/EMS Recruitment Fund

Authorize continued funding for the Fire & EMS Recruitment Fund administered by DFA for fire departments to staff, recruit, and retain career and volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

- Call volume has increased by as much as 50%.
- Response systems are overburdened.
- Average age of New Mexican volunteer is 65.

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E. Emergency Medical Services

Ensure that SB 151, 2024 Regular Session (as amended by Senate Tax) authorizing a redirect of 10% of the Premium Tax from health insurance business to the EMS Fund is implemented as stated.

F. 700 MHz Radios

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

2. Equitable Disclosure

Treat residential and non-residential property transfers equitably to allow for accurate valuation of non-residential real property. Information would be used for statistical and analytical purposes only.

3. 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.

4. Resources to Support Border-Related Humanitarian and Crime Efforts

Appropriate \$5 million to counties for services provided to state and federal agencies to support border humanitarian and crime efforts. This funding will be used to combat drug and human trafficking networks; to coordinate with community services that provide food, transportation, shelter, and family location; and to coordinate with state and federal agencies on information sharing and coordination of state law enforcement activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe 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 2025 Regular Session.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 26th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: *Hank Hughes*
Hank Hughes, Chair

ATTEST:

Katharine E. Clark
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk



Date: 11/26/24

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