

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 106

**A RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE NEW MEXICO COUNTIES
2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature during its 2023 regular session; and

WHEREAS, NMC has requested that the Board of County Commissioners in each of the State's 33 counties discuss and adopt 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; and

WHEREAS, the NMC Board of Directors' priorities are as follows:

1. HB 2 Appropriations

Detention Reimbursement Fund

Increase the County Detention Facilities Reimbursement Act fund to reimburse counties for the cost of housing New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) inmates.

- Currently the fund is \$5 million.
- According to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, the five-year average cost to house NMCD inmates is \$7.5 million.

Prisoner Transport and Extradition

Create a line item in the DFA budget with \$750,000 to reimburse counties that provide transportation for state prisoners.

- Statute 4-44-18C NMSA requires the state to make such payment.
- Counties should not be responsible to pay for state prisoner extradition.

Emergency Medical Services

Create a line item in the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau budget with \$10 million to assist local government emergency medical services. Emergency medical services in New Mexico have been significantly underfunded for years.

- Current state appropriations, taxes collected through local GRT increments, and other sources of revenue do not provide sufficient support to local governments to meet community needs, especially in rural areas of the state.
- Emergency medical services are vital to the health and welfare of New Mexico citizens.

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2. Public Safety Package**Return to Work**

- Local government struggle to fill critical public safety positions.
- Allowing able and willing retirees to return to work would create a pool of qualified applicants to fill essential public safety positions.

Recruitment and Retention

- Sufficient numbers of detention staff are essential to a safe and well-operated detention facility, which is directly correlated to community safety.
- A public safety recruitment and retention fund would provide local governments with much-needed resources to provide detention services to their communities.

Staffing Crisis in Fire & EMS

Create a Fire and EMS fund at \$50 million to support volunteer and paid fire department staff.

- Many New Mexico fire departments are volunteer or combination departments, and the number of volunteers has greatly declined.
- Call volume and large events continue to rise in New Mexico.

3. Courthouse Funding

Create a fund for construction and renovation for State district courthouses.

4. IPRA Election Related Records & Data

Clearly define how IPRA relates to election records and data.

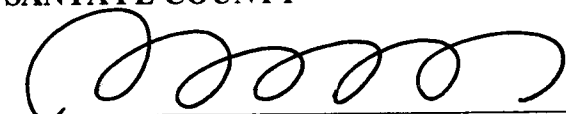
- Need clear statutory guidance on many aspects related to elections records and data that may be subject to IPRA.
- Relevant statutes include NMSA 1978, Sections 1-12-69(A) and (G) and 1-12-70.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County hereby supports NMC's legislative priorities as set forth above and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the State Legislature during its 2023 regular session.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 29th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

By: _____



Anna T. Hamilton, Chair

ATTESTATION:

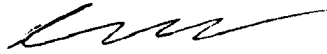


Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 12/12/2022



Approved as to form:



Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney

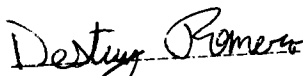
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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 12TH Day Of December, 2022 at 02:12:08 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2002963
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

