SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 157

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEW MEXICO COUNTIES' 2027 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2027 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 2027 legislative priorities:

1. **State Budget Appropriations (House Bill 2)**
   - **Detention Reimbursement Fund:** Fully fund the 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 actual FY2024 cost of housing state inmates was $9,382,935, while approximately $4.67 million was appropriated in 2026.
   - **700 MHz Radios:** Support NMC's request for $6 million in continued funding for FY2027 to cover subscriber fees for the statewide digital trunked radio communications system serving municipal, county, and Tribal public safety agencies.
   - **Special Appropriation for Disabled Veterans Exemption:** Support an appropriation to offset operational revenue losses for counties that reach the mill rate cap as a direct result of veterans' property tax exemptions enacted by the Legislature.

2. **Governmental Solvency**
   Support three targeted amendments to the New Mexico Civil Rights Act (NMCRA) intended to preserve accountability for actionable conduct while recognizing that (1) local governments must engage in inherently risky activities and (2) increased coverage contributions/premiums and damage claims consumes resources that could support service enhancements. The targeted amendments are:
   - Remove the automatic annual escalator in the damages cap, which has increased the damages cap from $2 million in 2021 to $2.51 million as of July 1, 2026;
   - Clarify that damages may not be stacked under both the NMCRA and the New Mexico Tort Claims Act (NMTCA); and
   - Align the NMCRA's notice provisions (notice of claim required within one year of occurrence) with those of the NMTCA (notice required within 90 days of occurrence), so as to ensure that essential evidence (e.g., lapel or other video) is preserved and counties have a fair opportunity to otherwise investigate, mitigate, respond, and, where appropriate, resolve claims. In addition, a one year notice provision can independently increase the cost of coverage (or decrease its

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availability) due to the necessity of procuring tail or nose coverage, since many policies and coverage agreements are written on a claims-made basis

3. **Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) Improvements**
   Support amendments to IPRA, including consensus recommendations developed by the Department of Justice's Inspection of Public Records Task Force, to limit abusive requests, protect crime victims and juveniles, and safeguard critical infrastructure.

4. **Emergency Medical Services as an Essential Government Service**
   Support statutory changes recognizing emergency medical services (EMS), provided by both career and volunteer personnel, as essential government services and an integral part of the state's health-care infrastructure. This designation is intended to strengthen counties' eligibility for future federal appropriations, particularly in rural communities where EMS resources are most strained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners hereby supports NMC's 2027 legislative priorities as set forth above and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the State Legislature during its 2027 Regular Session.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026.

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Justin S. Greene, Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 11/12/2026

Approved as to form:

_____
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

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OUNTY OF SANTA FE)
TATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
ecord On The 12TH Day Of November, 2026 at 01:53:47 PM
nd Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2095688
f The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
eputy _____ County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM