

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49

**TORRANCE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION NO. R 2022- 55**

Resolution Supporting the New Mexico Counties  
2023 Legislative Priorities

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2023 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**

**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.

2. **Public Safety Package**

**Return to Work**

- Local governments 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.

1 Recruitment and Retention

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

7 Staffing Crisis in Fire & EMS

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

- 9 • Many New Mexico fire departments are volunteer or combination departments; number
- 10 of volunteers has greatly declined.
- 11 • Call volume and large events continues to rise in New Mexico.

13 3. Courthouse Funding

14 Create a fund for construction and renovation for state district courthouses.

16 4. IPRA Election Related Records & Data

17 Clearly define how IPRA relates to election records and data.

- 18 • Need clear guidance on many aspects related to elections records and data that may be
- 19 subject to IPRA.
- 20 • (2) NMSA 1-12-69. A. and G. 1-12-70.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Torrance County Board of County Commissioners  
23 does hereby support NMC's legislative priorities as set forth above and urges that legislation  
24 incorporating these priorities be enacted by the state legislature during its 2023 session.

26 ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

29 APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

30 *[Signature]*  
31 9 Nov 22  
32 County Attorney Date

*[Signature]*  
Ryan Schwebach, Chair, District 2

*[Signature]*  
LeRoy M. Candelaria, Vice Chair, District 3

*[Signature]*  
Kevin McCall, Member, District 1



38 ATTEST  
39 *[Signature]*  
40 County Clerk (Chief Deputy Clerk)

42 Date: 11.09.2022