



RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022-45

Supporting the 2023 Legislative Priorities of New Mexico Counties

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.

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 staff.

- Many New Mexico fire departments are volunteer or combination departments; number of volunteers has greatly declined.
- Call volume and large events continues 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 guidance on many aspects related to elections records and data that may be subject to IPRA.
- (2) NMSA 1-12-69. A. and G. 1-12-70.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roosevelt County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the legislative priorities of the New Mexico Association of Counties as set forth above, and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the state legislature during its 2023 session.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED on this 15th day of November, 2022 by the Board of Roosevelt County Commissioners in an open meeting in Portales, New Mexico.

**BODY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

ATTEST:

Mandi M. Park
Mandi Park, Roosevelt County Clerk

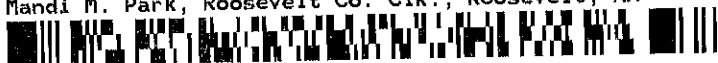
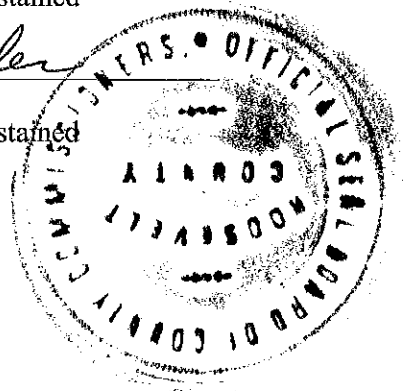
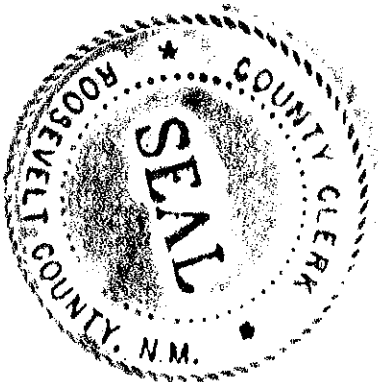
Lewis (Shane) Lee
Lewis (Shane) Lee, *Chair* – District III
Voted: Yes No Abstained

Rodney Savage
Rodney Savage, *Vice Chair* – District II
Voted: Yes No Abstained

Dennis Lopez
Dennis Lopez – District I
Voted: Yes No Abstained

Tina Dixon
Tina Dixon – District IV
Voted: Yes No Abstained

Paul Grider
Paul Grider – District V
Voted: Yes No Abstained





HB 2 Appropriations

Detention Reimbursement Fund

Increase the County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act fund to reimburse counties for the cost of housing NM Corrections Department inmates. Currently the NM Legislature appropriates \$5 million. According to the NM Sentencing Commission, the five-year average to house NMCD inmates is \$7.5 million.

Prisoner Transport & Extradition

Create a line item in the NM Department of Finance & Administration budget of \$750,000 to reimburse counties that provide transportation for state prisoners. Statutes require the state to make such payments, however no money has been appropriated to counties for many years. Counties should not be responsible to pay for state prisoner extradition.

Emergency Medical Services

Create a \$10 million line item in the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau budget to assist local government EMS services. 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. EMS services are vital to the health and welfare of New Mexico citizens.

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.

Recruitment & 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 \$50 million Fire and EMS fund to support volunteer and paid staff. Many New Mexico fire departments are volunteer, or combination departments and the number of volunteers has greatly declined. Call volume and large events continues to rise in New Mexico.

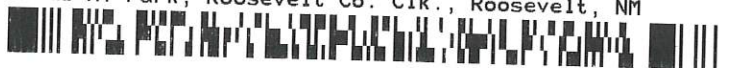
Courthouse Funding

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

IPRA Election-Related Records & Data

Clearly define how IPRA relates to election records and data.

20222871 11/15/2022 03:40:29 PM
Page: 3 of 3 Fee: 0 RES
Mandi M. Park, Roosevelt Co. Clk., Roosevelt, NM



**NMC
Legislative
Contacts**

Joy Esparsen
505.660.9629
jesparsen@nmcounties.org

Grace Phillips
505.690.6319
gphilips@nmcounties.org

305.330.9997
kcrociata@outlook.com